



MICHAEL BUBLÉ
Singing sweet,
talking dirty
P.46

**FESCHUK'S
SUMMER
OSCARS**
P.59

RADICALS AT THE DOOR
How Pakistani extremism
is taking hold in Canada
P.24

**INSIDE
OTTAWA:**
The top
chefs
dish P.9

**BARBARA
AMIEL:**
I'm home
alone P.12

MACLEAN'S

OUR GIRLS AREN'T GUINEA PIGS

A mass inoculation of Canadian girls against a sexually transmitted virus is under way. Experts say it's unnecessary—and potentially dangerous.
P.38



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Interview

IN A WRITER'S LIFE

Nevele turned 26 this week. Here Vegas Listas tells us how Vincent about Chavez Ortega, and help for Cuba.

Debate

9 CAPITAL GARY

Michael Raphael on who's preparing what in Ottawa's political kitchen.

10 ANDREW POTTER

A (partial) defence of Sir Glen John the Luddite.

12 BARBARA AMEL

Longing for the spot where troubles melt like lemon drops.

Retinal

16 PR. FRONT PENCE

As Harper shuffles his cabinet again, it's Stockwell Day who emerges as an unlikely master of survival skills.

20 GAMES OF WIMPING

Young people from war-torn African countries are being recruited into the city's drug gangs and winding up with deportation orders.

22 MONEY AT THE BORDER

Post-9/11 laws have made it easy for Customs to keep bag loads of undeclared cash.

23 TOO TIGHT TO FIGHT

A sleepy soldier faces all time. Manitoba's fish are in luck: a tax on plastic bags.

World

24 THE TALIBAN'S BEACH

Talibanism is spreading in Pakistan - but is the radical ideology also being imported to Canada's cities?

28 SHOOTING SMALIA

Foreign correspondent Paul Watson reflects on his photo that changed the world: a dead American in Mogadishu.

MACLEAN'S

VOLUME 130 NUMBER 35, AUGUST 27, 2007 • SINCE 1905

2 From the Editors 4 Mail Bag
6 Seven Days 14 Week in Pictures

AUGUST 27-SEPT. 3, 2007



P.46

Michael Buble could have it all—if he just shut up and sing.

THIS WEEK'S BACK PAGES

48 Music

Burnaby's Michael Buble: on the brink of superstardom.

50 Fame

Royal-to-be Auburn Kelly: beware your mother-in-law.

51 Theatre

A baby and bronze: Canadian chicken stages a comeback.

52 Sports

Why music shouldn't be too heavy in comedy.

55 Film

Disney scores big with its new hit *High School Musical 2*.

56 Business

Min. tax for or diamond-encrusted: fake eyelashes are so in.

58 Help

Hunted, horny, hungry: how to make your pig happy.

59 Festival

Summer blockbusters: the semi-extended glad that binds us.

60 The End

George Jean Macdonald, 1931-2007.

ON THE COVER: Girls 9 to 12 may receive mass HPV vaccinations.

World (continued)

27 BACK DOOR TO EUROPE
Every year tens of thousands of illegal immigrants walk and swim to Greece.

29 URSINE MADNESS

Truth-telling in Mogadishu, does the GOP heart Hussein bin? France's bear trouble.

Business

30 AGE OF INSOLVENCY

With credit worse than loans, the corporate valuations slide and prepare for a payday.

32 BOOKSTORE BATTLE

A Winnipeg-based indie chain is outdoing bigwig like Barnes and Chapters.

34 OLD TUNES, NEW TRICK

Kids these days don't know Bugs Bunny from Daffy Duck, forcing Warner to get one true with its Looney Tunes.

35 SHELTER FOR CALVES

U.S. west producers move to group housing. How to sell shares but stay in control.

Justice

36 A HAVEN FOR BLACK?

Unsettled advice on how Conrad might be able to hide in Cuba or Venezuela.

Health

IN COVER STORY

VACCINE MANIA

Reports of grave side effects, short supply, and questions about efficacy. With so much unknown about Gardasil, why are we about to inoculate a generation of girls?

Society

43 A DOG'S WORKOUT

Swimming with your pet requires pacing and cleanup but at least there's no talking.

Newsweekers

44 UN-PERFECT HOLIDAY

French President: Super-bureaucrat at U.S. photo galleries. Frank Stronach's disastrous day at the races.

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So Rocket Man wants us to shut down the Internet



ANDREW POTTER

Because the integration of crowds. Like all wild predators, the global pack of hypens is keen that in the blogosphere lives nothing more than to focus on the excesses of the ignorant and the foolish, especially when it is the far excess of an ignorant and foolish cultural has been.

And it was last week when bloggers turned their attention to Elton John, since a mildly respectable manager of "70s showstopper but who is now known, to anyone under 30, for his more than one-dimensional talents and his more embarrassing. Consideration of the already inevitable song, Goodie in the Wind. But someone has to make up for the man who sang Rocket Man, and while I'm not much of a fan of his music, he doesn't (nearly) deserve the head-banging he's received of late.

Then, the crime. In an interview published in the U.K. tabloid the Sun on Aug. 1, Sir Elton claimed that the Internet was having a negative effect on the production of quality culture, since people were locked up in their rooms blogging instead of getting out and interacting with other people. And so he offered his proposal: "I do think it would be an incredible experiment to shut down the whole Internet for five years and see what sort of art is produced over this span."

Bloggers greeted this comment with the sort of giddy condemnation traditionally reserved for failed politicians like Howard Dean or D.J. Janssen like The Road. What a conceit creep. What a total moron. The very idea that popular mass culture is inevitably better before, say, 1996 is as reasonable as the notion that the world of ideas was more vibrant before the invention of the printing press. Why didn't Elton John simply rate his slipper days all the way down, and demand to see what down the underplumbing for five years—you know, to see what kind of art people would come up with if we went back to

dumping our chamber pots into the street. There are good reasons, then, to dismiss all of this as nothing more than the out-of-touch musings of a rich old fart who trades new technology even as he profits from it. After all, this is a man whose 60th birthday concert was streamed live over the Internet, and whose entire back catalogue was recently made available for download on iTunes. Shut down the Internet? Not until you get off the stage, has first, said.

But, for all the clamorous of the delivery (remember, Taupin wrote the lyrics), he has a point. The Internet is an information ecosystem in which some forms of cultural life will flourish better than others, and what may actually be worrying Elton John is the possi-

ble but shallow art in search of fancy poses, positions or clever combinations of pre-existing cultural elements.

In principle, this is the difference between a composer and a DJ, between a novelist and a blogger, or between a painter and a collage artist. Below all the DJs and bloggers and collage artists get difficult, keep in mind there is an implied social judgment here. A healthy culture needs both forms of cultural explanation, but a healthy intellectual sphere needs both specialists and generalists.

Elton John's quite legitimate concern is that the free-ranging ethos of the Internet, with its endless musical or video snuff ups and the offhand opinionating of the blogosphere, is heavily biased in favor of shallow

culture. We're living in a cultural candy store, where websites like Procrustes, YouTube and Photobucket offer all manner of offhand seductions. Nowhere is this more obvious than on the social networking phenomenon Facebook, where the difference between a true friend and a casual acquaintance is as defined in a retrospective "casualties" context.

As Tyler Cowen argues in *Creative Destruction*, the danger here is that our entire culture will adopt the same logic, and we'll become, effectively, tourists in our own culture. We will float about like flies on the surface of a lake, never stopping in one place long enough to plumb the depths of history, meaning or emotion that are the reward of intense willing to spend the



Despite the clumsy delivery (Taupin wrote the lyrics, remember), Sir Elton has a point

bility that there are some valuable forms of culture that are likely to wither and die.

In his book about culture and globalization *Creative Destruction*, the economist (and, it should be noted, star blogger) Tyler Cowen distinguishes between what he calls extensive and intensive cultural production: a distinction better known to scholars as the difference between "shallow" and "deep." In the world of the Internet culture, both producers and consumers concentrate on narrow but deep artistic forms digging down through the massiveness layers of truth and beauty that a general cultural form has to offer. In contrast, the world of extensive culture is made up of grazers, people who can't

time and make the effort.

How great a danger is this, really? Is it as serious enough to warrant shutting down the Internet for five years? The obvious answer, the only possible answer, is no. The gravitas of Luddism is the habit of focusing only on what is lost when a new technology arrives on the scene, and not on what is gained. Still, in the Internet context it is noticeable growth—in our culture simply becomes faster culture—it is worth bearing in mind that a world where everyone is a tourist is one where no one really belongs. ■

ON THE WEB: For more, Andrew Potter's web site is at www.muchmore.com/andrewpotter

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Back home in Toronto. Without Conrad.



BARBARA AMIEL
I left cloningly happy, dragging my wheelie through the halls of Terminal One at Lester B. Pearson airport nearly two days after, but after five months of American political torture, even the four-hour jetride on the flight home had a happy crunch to it. The immigration line was as usual death march, dotted with people wearing extra headgear or under 10 and backpacking. The lady immigration officer with the documents was had a transatlantic Canadian edge.

"Where are you coming from?" she asked in a monotone, looking down at my passport. "Chicago."

"What were you doing there?"
"Accompanying my husband's trial." A moment's beat.

"They didn't let him back," she remarked sympathetically, like a drill going through rock, after being appropriately and for the past few years, I turned into an ardent well of tears. Good, it was embarrassing. I dried up pretty fast but at the end to ensure the officer wasn't too confused by my request to pay duty.

"Did he do it?" he asked.
"I wrote."
"Was something bad about me," he said and waved me through.

Perhaps he had a soft spot for the absurdity of my prosecution or also a sympathy. Can admit voluntarily declaring goods is regarded as self-evidently real or an endangered species. He couldn't have known just how "naïve" his smile felt after five years of being hounded by officials. Before leaving of goods to such a new or Canadian customs, let me tell you that I pay absolute mindless of duty on declared goods. Neither my mail nor the extra's budget will be prospered by a single act of kindness.

The weekend before I left Chicago, the car swirled under 90° plus heat. On the eve-

ring middle man, I passed the newspaper hawk at the corner of East Chicago and North Michigan. About two metres high with those walls of glass covered with magazines Scotch-taped to them and a flat roof, it must have been a bike's own for the seller inside. At midnight he sat outside in his folding camp chair, shirt mangled from sweat over a patch, glasses pushed down his nose, a middle-aged man after a day in purgatory.

"You survived?" remarked my husband.
"I spent the day," the man replied, "convincing myself I was the wrong in the Arctic and that the people asking for their sense and model mean magazines were polar bears." Next, I thought, and standing perfectly the need to turn descendant into sound or risk.

Back in Toronto, the Lovers' bike was delivered, filled with "stuff" from one stop in Chicago and only a month ago—two the blessed socks. On day one of the party didn't mean we were in bed when a telephone call announced that the jury had a question and Conrad would have to be present within 30 minutes. Our hotel at a 15-minute taxi ride and then there's press and security. "I don't have any socks," said Conrad, which is rude speak for final-me-same. We were moving out of the case the next day with attention made. He had dressed and shaved in five minutes and stood without shoes in bed. "It's summer, for heaven's sake, don't wear any. Just get there," I said unthinkingly as I searched through laundry bags. I forgot about the press, which having a stomach to treat about, served as a sickness as an essential statement.

"Asswallowing," said the Glebe and Mad. Crude in the self-mythology of Conrad Black.

After being appropriately arid for the past few years, I was now an artesian well of tears

was Michael mysteriously. Well, no. Conrad in the representation of his wit who pushed the distance under the "To-File in Toronto" envelope in the "Toronto" because didn't get his hundred ones back till next day.

Our house in Toronto is not quite small without Conrad. Even the yellow tree he planted as a gift with his mother, opposite the front door, now means at least five feet across at its widest part, seems to have given up the fight to support the ball floor. The disposal has been in it to catch the leaks from heavy rain and I simply refuse to look at his dog models downstairs. Some things that are too boring for words when their owner is essential to give you a good history of civil warfare are too hard reading when rain is around.

The garden, however, is a triumph. When

I say garden, I am actually referring to one flower bed. Last summer we had a bee and butterfly deficit. Bee people told me of various diseases running here to there, and the kill rates of anywhere from 10 to 40 per cent in southern Ontario and higher in the U.S. Not in my backyard, I decided. In case Alan visited lavender and tall stalks of grass lavender, gypsophylis, scabiosa, Fries Schubert phlox and the wonderfully named black night butterfly bush. And, in the summer in case the bees and butterflies, I covered nearly two dozen beds in just one look, and a final pinning butterflies. There were even a couple of monarch butterflies, orange and black on the tall stalks of purple coneflower. Stopping by our flower bed, I suppose, before rushing off to just the look-meeting at Ontario's Peace Palace National Park, where hundreds of thousands gather to visit



their extraordinary migration to Mexico. I had a jelly Gelatin morning. The history with wings slower than a strand of my hair, weighing nothing and with silences of no more than eight months, well except the three-to-four-month journey to the private patch of forest in Mexico that allows it to survive the winter. A new generation makes the same perilous trip back—no map, no guides, just instinct. And I'm paralyzed over all the organizing to be done before I enter down to Florida to join my beloved spouse where, courtesy of the U.S. government, he's doing the new fall bar November. Goddamn it. Somehow there's a spot where trouble multiplies like leeches there. If moment he does it, why else can't he?

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WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO BE PRESIDENT

In the run-up to the 2008 election, the first in 60 years without a sitting president or vice-president having to return to power, candidates are on the road, making it the way.

Q to 30 Democrats and general hopefuls: Hillary Rodham Clinton visits a grocery store in Henderson, Nev. Jan. 14; Rick Warren visits a lingerie store at a home in Oakland, Calif., in part of a program called

Wish a Day in My Shoes. John Edwards serves as his campaign bus leaves San Marcos, Iowa, Jan. 10; Republican presidential candidate, multi-millionaire Mitt Romney, who says he will double the president's \$50,400,000 salary to charity donors in speech in Fresno, Calif. Mike Huckabee, who lost over 100 lb. and hit the talk show circuit to discuss healthy food habits, asks a pork chop on a stick at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines. John McCain in Rochester, N.Y. Rudy Giuliani gets a touch-up of makeup before a television interview in New York City.





'Chávez is a great example of a dictator on the left, but he is a dinosaur. His attempt to conquer South America is failing.'

MARIO VARGAS LLOSA TALKS WITH ISABEL VINCENT ABOUT HELPING CUBA, THE WRITING LIFE, AND WHY ORTEGA IS NOBODY'S PUPPET

The Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, 75, has devoted much of his long career as a writer and short career as a politician to fighting authoritarianism in Latin America. In 1995, he ran for president of Peru on a free-market platform. Although he lost in a fifth-round runoff against incumbent Alberto Fujimori, he continued to run against authoritarianism in both his journalism and novels. He has written more than 10 books, and won a winner of the 1984 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish language's most important literary prize. Vargas Llosa, who began his career as a journalist in Peru, writes regular columns for newspapers in Spain, where he has lived most of the year with his second wife of 41 years, Patricia.

His latest novel, *Travesuras de la Niña Mala*, which is to be released in an English translation, *The Bad Girl*, in October, has been the most successful of his last three works: the semi-autobiographical Aunt Julia and the Sergeant. *Travesuras de la Niña Mala* tells the story of Ricardo, an idealistic young leader who leaves Peru to live in Paris, the city of his dreams. But a mysterious woman—the bad girl—finds her past—drawn up at try moments in his life to torment him.

Q You have returned to Latin America, specifically to Peru, to promote the release of your first book, *La Ciudad y los Perros* published in English as

The Hometown in 1968 as *Time of the Hero*. How did you come to write that book and how did it inform the rest of your work and outlook?

A: It's a novel about my years as military cadet in the Colegio Militar Leoncio Prado in Peru. My childhood was very sheltered by my mother and my grandparents. The first really traumatic break came when I was 11, away to military school. The place was a real microcosm of Peru, with all the social mores and prejudices that existed in Peruvian society at that time. There were students from every economic class, who had to submit to military discipline. For me, this was completely new and in many ways extremely exciting. At the same time, the experience was really important for me because that's where I discovered authoritarianism for the first time, and I was physically repelled by it. It was my father's idea to send me to military school thinking that it would "cure" me of literature. But what it ended up doing was giving me great material for my first book.

Q Authoritarianism is a theme you revisit again and again in your work. In addition to *Time of the Hero* you returned to the subject several years ago in *The Feast of the Goat*, your book about the late days of Rafael Ángel Trujillo, who ruled the Dominican Republic for 31 years. Dictatorships never seem to disappear the least ways in Latin America, but over the last several years, democracy seems to have taken a firm hold in the region.

But has Latin America taken a step back

ward, especially with the election of Hugo Chávez in Venezuela in 1999? We have tried to bring elections across the region, and as the leader of the fifth largest oil producer, he has more than \$30 billion a year at his disposal. How much do you believe has left Latin America today?

A: I absolutely have not emancipated, on the right and on the left. I had no time for [Augusto] Pinochet, a dictator on the right, whether we so power in Chile. In Venezuela, Hugo Chávez is a great example of a dictator on the left, but he is a dinosaur. He is very dangerous, but I think he is no longer having his desired effect.

In Peru, in Colombia, in Mexico, he has tried and failed to influence election results, to support left-wing populists at election time. In Brazil, Fernando Collor [was] taken down [in 1992]. But while Latin America may see new things about Chávez, he doesn't do anything like that. Lula has gone his own way, and is an example of the progressive left in Latin America. Lula has actually taken a very tough fiscal policy, and maintained good relations with the United States, which our press professes not like [Chávez] attempt to conquer South America is failing. He was successful in Bolivia with the elections of Evo Morales two years ago, but other left governments are not following his plans. They are paying lip service, but they are doing other things. They are implementing basic market reforms, curbing spending. This is not the Chávez model.

Q That the Chávez model appears to be a very scary one, nonetheless, especially where civil liberties are concerned. Chávez recently shut down opposition radio broadcasts, and then threatened that work exceeding more than 30 advertising agencies. Don't you see this as a carefully designed ploy to suppress in Latin America a region that so far has just 20 years ago was dominated by repressive military rulers?

A Chávez's closure of Radio Caracas TV has only served to bolster the opposition against him [Chávez did not remove the broadcast]. The rejection of the broadcaster was a huge tactical error on his part. Even the university, traditionally a stronghold of the left, has refused to support him on this. Coordination of the process is becoming universal in Venezuela. The media is against him.

Even centre-left governments across Latin America are very explicit that they don't like and they don't support censorship. Chávez is shrinking, like power of a permanent dictatorship.

Q But you can't deny that Chávez, who has shown open hostility to the United States by calling President George W. Bush "the devil" and rallying friends with U.S. enemies such as North Korea and Iran, is a dangerous influence on the region?

A: I agree that the situation looks bleak. The real problem with Chávez is personalities. He can spend a lot of money to get what he wants. He is going to ruin the Venezuelan economy and he is destabilizing the region with personalities, trying to subordinate governments. He is a dangerous person but I think what he did with RCTV is a very serious error.

Throughout Latin America there was enormous condemnation, not just on the right but on the left, with very few exceptions. Because I believe the core, Latin Americans respect and love democracy, they know the value of free speech.

Q What about Washington, where South media leader Daniel Ortega was recently arrested under Chavez's orders?

A: Ortega is trying to do things to please Chávez, but he's not doing it at all things. He has not cut ties with the world with the United States. He said he wants a "respectful" relationship with Washington, and he is so far respecting private property and exercising fiscal restraint. While his behaviour is I don't think it's Chávez proper. It's not of Chavez. This speech is very, but what he is actually doing is pragmatic.

Q And what about Cuba? What of the future

of the Cuban Revolution since that its *chavismo* leader Fidel Castro is aging and on the sidelines. Do you think that Castro suffers that the Revolution's days are numbered, especially as such high-ranking guerrilla fighters begin to die? Last month, *Vuelta* magazine, Raúl Castro's wife and a former *Apuro* in his own right, passed away after only one month. Just yesterday, do you think that he has removed Castro of his own mortality, and perhaps the inability of keeping the Cuban Revolution alive after he dies?

A: We know what is happening in Cuba's economy. This pay has been in power for 50 years, and it's the shame of the continent. He has to keep disappearing in violence and with Chávez by his side to secure the Cuban people that the Revolution is still alive. But we're really interested now is the end of the Cuban Revolution. It will fade away with Castro, and what's important is the transition in the country. That's what the world should be focused on now: how do you turn a repressive regime into a democracy after he's gone? How do you make a better life for the Cuban people, how do you build a stable nation economy?

Let's help the Cubans get through the transition, just like the world helped Spain after the fall of Franco, and Chile after Pinochet. The Cubans have had enough of dictatorship and economic hardship. I don't think Cuba is a model for Latin America anymore. But it never really was.

Q What kind of a writer are you? Do you get obsessive when you are working on a book?

A: I am better at judging other people's works than my own. [In 1971, he wrote against dissemination on Caribbean writer Gabriel García Márquez's work called "History of a Detective." I] know that I am finished a book when I feel I can no longer connect it, that I should start doing something else or else I will run.

But total satisfaction [never] comes. I always want to continue making it better, but at the same time I don't want to fall into a trap of trying to make it perfect. This becomes paralyzing.

Q You've never spent time being a writer? Would you have been how was influenced by living in a political, in Peru, even the elections in Peru, and influence the course of the continent?

A: I like to quote Planchón once and say, "Writing is a way of life." At one point in my life, this became true. Now, I can't imagine of life without writing. My whole life revolves around my work as a writer.

It's true that literature contains a political

either it makes people more sensitive to the world in which they live, and turns them into citizens. The contact with that world of persons, beauty, coherence and morality that exists in the world of good literature makes readers much more conscious of the dilemmas in the world. The poet is that all authoritarian regimes without exception try to censor literature because people who are conscious of good literature are much more difficult to manipulate.

Q What about Gabriel García Márquez, who is, like you, a literary giant in Latin America? You used to be good friends until you pointed him out as a totalitarian device in 1976. Neither you nor he have ever spoken about



'It was my father's idea to send me to military school thinking it'd "cure" me of literature'

the field, which has become one of the legend of his books of contemporary literature. Although you haven't spoken for more than 10 years, you share the same agent [the legendary Core Books in Barcelona], and you recently agreed to allow parts of your own book on García Márquez to be used as the introduction to a new edition of One Hundred Years of Solitude, which is being re-released in Peru and throughout Latin America. Does this mean that there is a rapprochement with García Márquez on the horizon?

A: I don't answer questions about that. ■



THE NINE LIVES OF STOCKWELL DAY

Critics have kept on writing him off. Instead, he's become the ultimate political survivor.

BY JOHN CEDER • Stockwell Day has kept his job this new through two cabinet shuffles. But if his official title, minister of public safety, remains the same, his unofficial designation has changed. From once regarded as almost a laughingstock, he is the most unexpected survivor of from both survival skills as Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government. When he was sworn in back on Feb. 6, 2006, Day was known to a wide swath of Canadian not

only, infidelity, as the lightweight in the cabinet, the guy whose splashy arrival on the federal scene was followed by an enormous up fall, when he lost the 2006 election and then had the leadership of the old Canadian Alliance party pulled apart from his grip. Liberals were eager to cast him as a joke, and even more partisan cheer went up at the thought of his fall. "You had had the expectations," says University of Toronto security analyst

JILL THERE. This minister has kept his job through two Harper cabinet shuffles (right) expert Wesley Clark, "that he would be a jolly good minister."

It's not because Harper made it easy for him. Following the 2006 election, many had speculated Day might find the crowd for a significant portfolio. After all, he had served effectively as Harper's foreign spokesman the Conservatives were in opposition. Instead, Harper put Day in charge of the sprawling Department of Public Safety, created by the Liberal government after it's to give a single minister control over everything from the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, to managing the border, to running federal prisons. With all those security files piled on his desk, Day's critics predicted he would find plenty of opportunity to stumble, or worse. So far, it hasn't happened.

It was no surprise, then, that he stepped out in this week's shuffle. Not only Harper said so, but he never thought he was going to be plucked out of Day's (in)famous job. Scrapping the gun registry, overhauling overnight of the RCMP, trying to restore controversial anti-terrorism powers, crafting new rules for releasing cases of suspected terrorists held on so-called security certificates, possible sweeping reforms to the federal prison system—all this and more awaits Day's next horizon. Harper's new cabinet was given credit for highlighting the war for public opinion in Afghanistan, which gave Prime Minister replacing grand Gordon O'Connor as defense minister, but it's Day's diverse department that demands the most vigil, forward-looking vision.

Day has proven hard to trip up even when the terrain is notoriously tough. Perhaps his toughest test came late last year after Giuliano Zaccardi was found to resign as RCMP commissioner over controversy in his statements on the Maher Arar affair. When Day appeared before a parliamentary committee, Liberal MP Mark Holland pressed him relentlessly for a yes or no answer on whether he had urged Harper privately to fire Zaccardi earlier. Rather than battle the scrappy Holland head-on, much less answer his questions, Day adopted an almost theatrically non-committal air. "Mr. Holland, you have an amazing propensity for hyperbole, which is certainly your right to do," he said. "All of us, when the camera goes on and the lights go up on politics, have a little difficulty."

Day would know. His own mission to play to the camera was once his defining trait. There was, of course, his excellent media training, still doing appearances at a news conference in the north of Lake Ontario as a Liberal MP and later as an Alliance leader in 2000. During a televised debate in the election campaign later that year, he credulously

held up a sign, scrawled in marker, saying "No 2-ter facility case." Overall, the media underwhelmed his chances of being taken seriously as a national leader.

But observers who had watched him earlier, as Tory cabinet minister in Ralph Klein's Alberta government from 1992-2000, knew there was more to Day. University of Calgary political science professor Barry Cooper says



had to get adamant "Why the stockwell?" Cooper notes that a federal official told him the police chief's opposition to the Tory plan to disarm the legacy for rifles and shotguns was seen as "a little drop in the bucket."

Cooper noted some of the most politically charged issues Day must oversee, including the ongoing search for the 1982 shooting in Montreal's Dawson College, polarized anti-gun activists, putting the high-profile Tory campaign view to keep the registry in political limbo. Recent gun murders in Toronto led Ontario's Liberal government

opponents inside the conservative movement to test as much as outside critics—who made an issue of Day's strong base among anti-alienation groups and other social conservatives. With those as well as voters carrying little doubt these days in Harper's cautiously chosen right government, Day is a symbol of their distrust of any career. "It's certainly a big star among social conservatives in this day," says Ellis. "He's almost got a reputation status with a lot of those people. 'Remember when they did it to Stock?'"

Yet Day also rivaled Harper. Despite their

HE WAS KNOWN AS the light-weight in a cabinet, but Day (with Harper after the 2004 leadership bid) in Afghanistan in April, and in Ottawa in 2006 (his first cabinet shuffle).



DAY'S DIVERSE DEPARTMENT DEMANDS AGILE, FOCUSED MANAGEMENT

it's the "wild character" Day once displayed in provincial politics that is showing through again now. And Faron Little, a pollster and co-founder of Alberta politics at Lettbridge College, remembers Day using his "very accessible style" to build support for tough budget cuts when he was Klein's social justice minister.

Today, Day's fame among Ontario Tories dates that same diversely informed man never endures his success or decline in Harper's cabinet. They point to his practice of regularly emailing policy messages to thousands of public servants who fall under his authority. His firm stance making way to please for now to join the job when he assumed the post last year. Most tragically, he used the kick-squid last month to appeal directly to rich and life. Moreover, to give their new boss a choice, whether the government engaged many on the force by appointing a senior lieutenant, rather than a veteran officer, as Zaccardi's replacement as RCMP commissioner.

If Day cultivates an unfiltered persona among his ministers, however, consider it his only selectively open to them. Take his close relationship with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, which couldn't arrange a meeting with Day for more than a year after the Conservatives won power. They finally got their sit-down last April. "We couldn't seem to get very close to him," associates executive director Peter Cuthbert says. "We



to call for an outreach but on budgets Day shot down the idea, claiming it would be "diverted at interest in business owners rather than those who cannot crime." But Ontario ministers go to 50 per cent of government in secret when they are often from legal owners, a potent argument among the urban voters the Harper Conservatives can't seem to reach. And Day, despite his new name of unapproachable competence, is unlikely to ever connect easily in downtown Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

He remains closely identified with the rural West. Born in Ramoth, Ont., 57 years ago this week, he was raised partly in Montreal and Ottawa, but emerged as a classic Prairie politician type after a stint as administrator of a Christian school in Bentley, Alta. He spent Prairie Manhood for the leadership of the Canadian Alliance in 2000, then lost the job to Harper in 2002. In both races, it was his

past dashes, Cooper says that political styles complemented one another, Harper as "love boy" and Day as "infectious." These contrasts often show up in the way he sends his messages more than policy substance. On the controversial issue of some rural suspects being detained for long periods without trial, when they can't be quickly deported, Day had this to say about the Toronto detention facilities where they were held: "The department, as I observed when I was then minister, is studded with a variety of patients, very mild, scope, honest, and chocolate cases." It is not unlike happened last year in a local paper in his B.C. riding, Okanagan-Capital, he quipped. "Maybe all my constituents living high up in the West Bank or Lakeview Heights, or the hills of Logan Lake will soon be writing an ideological position as one of the wrong benefits of global warming."

In quotes like these, opponents still bear the mark of the old Stock Day who still kept his party in Harper's cabinet. But the Prime Minister, by leaving him in place to keep carrying such a heavy load, is clearly betting the solid new Day is here to stay. ■

ARND BRONKHORST/GETTY IMAGES; DAY: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; COOPER: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; CUTHBERT: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; LITTLE: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; ZACCARDI: JEFFREY M. HARRIS



IN THE FIRST three years of the new law, Customs seized \$140 million in undeclared cash

Sorry, no refunds on cash seizures

If Customs confiscates your undeclared cash, don't expect it back

BY MICHAEL FRISCOLANTE • On a July evening in 2005, Shauler Toerle headed to a Peace Island Highline Hotel. Minutes later, police were knocking him back to the terminal. Canadian border agents had received a tip, and after a quick search of Toerle's luggage, their suspicion rang true: he was carrying \$301,000 in cash.

People are free to bring in as much money as they want in and out of Canada. If you prefer to take your money in a money clip, to be sure. But it is illegal not to tell Customs. It's all part of the government's crackdown on money laundering and terrorist financing. Anything more than \$10,000 can be declared at the border, if not, you might never see it again. Just ask Shauler Toerle. Four years ago, he has been fighting the odds to return his money, which the justice is owed. Earlier this month, his battle is over—and probably last month's battle. "It's completely ridiculous," says his lawyer, Jean-Philippe Roux. "Once a decision has been made to forfeit the money and seize it, there is basically no way to over turn that decision."

Between January 2001 and August 2006, the Canada Border Services Agency conducted more than 5,000 cash seizures under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act. The worst cost at almost five billion dollars a year, for a grand total of \$1.5 million. Most of the cash is currently dry, only a few hundred people have tried to appeal the confiscation. If the authorities were wrong—if the money really was legitimate—

wouldn't everyone be trying to get it back? Perhaps. But those who have tried to appeal are convinced that many more would do the same—if they could only figure out how. "It's a very badly drafted piece of legislation," says Steven Teas, who represents another winner battling to recoup more than \$180,000. "I had to litigate separate court actions because the law is so unclear." In April, the Federal Court of Appeal agreed, with the judge saying the process is "amongst the most convoluted and confusing provisions I have seen in federal statutes."

According to the act, the burden of proof lies with the individual, says the state.

A CUSTOMS OFFICER CAN SEIZE CASH IF HE HAS REASONABLE GROUNDS TO SUSPECT A CRIME

Customs officers, for example, can seize cash if they have reasonable grounds to suspect it is the proceeds of crime. But if a person wants the money back, it is up to him to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the money is genuine. Unlike in a criminal prosecution, the onus is reversed. "I think the government is making very easy money because the onus is so high," says lawyer Robert Watt, whose client, Andre Blaisard, had \$200,000 confiscated at Pearson International Airport. "These

are unsophisticated people who don't keep all their money in bills. My client's money was changed incrementally and yet he lost thousands of dollars because there wasn't enough evidence to prove his innocence beyond a reasonable doubt. So the government just got \$200,000 of my client's money."

The process works like this: a person can contest a seizure to the Department of Public Safety, whose an adjudicator must make two separate decisions. The first, known as a Section 37 ruling, asks one simple question: did you declare the currency to Customs? If the answer is yes, all is well. Your money is returned with interest, and the outcome is like that of all people who lawfully declare their thousands at the border. If determined to be untruthful, the federal agency that analyzes financial transactions for any sign of illegal activity, the next step is a Section 29 ruling, as these reasonable grounds to suspect a criminal offense? People have the opportunity to submit bank records or other receipts, but if they aren't convincing, the forfeiture stands. At least one, 137 people have appealed, 91 got their money back.

There is another option before the appeal to the adjudicator. The law allows a person to appeal the Section 29 decision (not the Section 37 decision) to the Federal Court, but not the Section 29 decision (and there reasonable grounds to suspect). And, just ask Shauler Toerle. Last year, a judge believed him when he said the \$301,000 belonged to him and his brother, and was supposed to be used to purchase a plot of land in the north. However, the judge said he didn't have the legal jurisdiction to overturn the justice's decision. He only had the power to give

the Section 27 ruling. In other words, because Toerle admitted he didn't declare the cash in the first place, it doesn't matter what the judge thought. The statute stands.

Of course, that same judge also said that of Shauler Toerle. "He was under duress. He has worked hard, and it is a real life trial. He is also a beggar, and someone who economical with the truth." For the government—and most Canadians—that is reason enough to keep his money. ■

DENMARK'S POLE POSITION: SEND SOMEONE ELSE

No matter how many flags pop out or how many prime ministers yell out, that doesn't become a valid argument in the process. "Sweden is the new winner. Helge Berger, south of an attempt by him to give a flag to the world under the North Pole, and Sweden is now embracing northern military bases to further Arctic sovereignty claims. Denmark's very involved sending a rented Russian boat stocked with borrowed Swedish scientists.

Unplugging Canada's worst river

BY PATRICIA TREBLE • When Rudy Martin stepped in Montreal, N.B., in 1963, the Pettesville River was a gas plant for salmon fishing. But the salmon, trout, brook and most other species are gone from what was once Canada's most endangered river. The problem is a 30-year-old dam causing brackish water to the efforts of Jacques Landry, a Montrealer and self-described "ecological volunteer." Quebecers may soon have to shoulder the environmental impact—with their wallets.



GO WITH THE FLOW: A bridge will replace the offending damway

over the river's flow. But virtually all the salmon and the fish are trapped when the tide flows back the estuary. Only a small number of fish can get through the spreading mud flats—which can be rather adverse in the summer—about 50 percent of the river's width near the estuary.

Last week, after governments tried for decades to modify the structure's fish gate for better management and more than 100 studies pointed out the river's health, Martin, now the province's minister of supply and services, announced the province's promise to fund the government's would replace the damway with a 200-m bridge. The plan would allow the river to return to its natural flow and allow migratory fish to pass again.

And Martin's confidence in the federal government will help with the \$65-million cost.

Even though Michel Deschamps, chairman of the environmental group Pettesville Riverkeeper, pressed for the selected design and believes that "we are at the point of no return," he still wants to see the final environmental assessment done. Only then will the group decide whether to drop to legal court for a federal court order forcing government to build up the Pettesville. But after decades of mass, because many fish have a river to complete in economic resistance. ■

Plastic tax: paying for a shopping bag

BY MARTIN PATRICK • In the annals of environmental calamities, it doesn't quite have the same ring as a Bannan. According to environmentalists, though, the humble and handy plastic bag would have plastic bags are made from oil, and they choke both the landfill and the wildlife. Some thanks to the efforts of Jacques Landry, a Montrealer and self-described "ecological volunteer," Quebecers may soon have to shoulder the environmental impact—with their wallets.

In 2005, Landry used PQ MNA Stephen Tremblay on television trumpeting the benefits of a tax on each of the estimated 1.5 billion plastic bags used by Quebecers every year. Inspired, he started an online petition. Five months later, he'd collected more than 40,000 signatures urging the government to consider the program. Liberal Environment Minister Jean Lapointe has indicated she is weighing the idea.

"It's gutting the results we want with 'plastic bags,'" said Landry of the suddenly cash-strapped sales at a not grocery chains—of which some 40 million have been sold in the province. "We have to make it more expensive." Under his plan, plastic bags would cost 20 cents each. "It would get immediate results," he says, pointing at a similar project in the last that was a 90-cent reduction on plastic bag use. Several U.S. cities are looking to use the polystyrene tax measure. Last year, Minn. (April 1998) has banned the bags outright.

The state and Landry's petition are the plastic industry in a state. "No one will refuse to sign something about the environment," says former Canada's Plastic Industry Association president Dean Crocker. Nevertheless, "the answer is recycling the bags, and the challenge is to get people bringing them back to the store." For now, the environmentalists, but should the province follow the Irish model, Quebecers will have to get used to paying for plastic. Since 2003, Ireland has collected 90 million euros from the plastic bags. There are no plans to repeal the program. ■

"PLASTIC BAGS: Introducing 'more expensive measures'."

"The state and Landry's petition are the plastic industry in a state. 'No one will refuse to sign something about the environment,' says former Canada's Plastic Industry Association president Dean Crocker. Nevertheless, 'the answer is recycling the bags, and the challenge is to get people bringing them back to the store.' For now, the environmentalists, but should the province follow the Irish model, Quebecers will have to get used to paying for plastic. Since 2003, Ireland has collected 90 million euros from the plastic bags. There are no plans to repeal the program. ■

The soldier who wouldn't get out of bed



FIGHTING in Afghanistan: Others brood for battle but Billard slept

BY MICHAEL FRISCOLANTE • Last year, when images of an Afghanistan opened fire on the base where he was stationed, Master Cpl. Paul Billard stayed in bed. Everyone else grabbed their gear and braved for battle, but the 35-year-old didn't—near one when his friends used to come from his covers by dragging him back. "I'm anxious to that," he said of the war. "I'm going to sleep."

Billard will have plenty of time for musing now. Twenty months, to be exact. Such was the full attention handed down by a military judge, who called Billard's actions—or lack thereof—"unreasonable." "Your duty is to follow orders and to ensure the welfare and discipline of your subordinates," said Judge John Guy-Perron. "You failed this duty miserably on 31 May 2006. You left your command down in a time of danger."

Billard troops were even more disgusted. "In another era, he would have been shot already," one soldier wrote on a popular internet story about him. "I personally will have to restrain myself from stomping his guts out if I ever ended up in the same zone as this coward," and another Billard's lawyer, Lt. Col. John McManis, says his client is "horrified" by the negative publicity. "The army says that the guy was too busy to get out of bed to go to work," he says. "It's not the case at all." In fact, Billard was not charged for staying in the stock. The charge was for failing to do his job and believe: "He had a lapse of judgment and that was totally out of character," McManis says. "But he took full responsibility and paid gladly. He said, 'I was wrong and I'd do it again.' So he got paid for 21 days, I think it was."

Billard's lawyer has an appeal court order. "He has a 15-year unblemished career and he's had lots of commendations," McManis says. "Amongst his own chain of command, he is a resister. If he could just take back one bad decision. ■



THE GHOST OF A MAN I NEVER KNEW

Paul Watson's iconic photo changed history, and his life forever

BY BRIAN BEVERLY Sometimes a picture is worth more than a thousand words. Sometimes it can change a man's life and even, for good or ill, the course of international politics. It's hard to argue against that in the case of Paul Watson's iconic 1993 photo of a dead American soldier dragged to triumph by a howling mob through Somalia's capital of Mogadishu. The shocking image of Staff Sgt. William Cleveland's mutilated corpse was emblazoned across U.S. media. Domestic opinion turned hostile, and President Clinton immediately abandoned the pursuit of Somali warlord Mohammed Aided—the manor that had cost Cleveland his life—and set an end date for the withdrawal of troops from the war-torn nation. The next year, the politically potent photo was instrumental in leading American troops out of Rwanda while genocide raged. In 1996, Osama bin Laden cited the incident as proof that the U.S. was able to stomach casualties when "our American was dragged in the streets of Mogadishu you left the command of your impostors and weaknesses become very clear."

But no individual was more affected by the click of his camera's shutter than Watson himself. The picture is the focal point of the Toronto-based Swiss composer's soon-forging memoir, *When War Ends* (McClintock & Stewart). His book is a kind of literary war work, almost impossible to turn your eyes from. Beautifully written and poetically tinged about the author's life and line of work and the role of the "War" in the world's recent bloodbaths—the narrative is propelled by an apocalyptic sense of anger, guilt and pure trauma shock. "I wanted to be as real and as truthful as possible," Watson, 44, says over the phone from his home in Jakarta where he's South Asia bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times, "and the reality of our times is deeply disgusting." The book has attempts to "excise some of the horrors that I stole as that second when I pushed a button."

For most of his story Watson is not haunted by Cleveland as much as he is by his flight to the scene that left him as long as much closer to the truth. The type of war he witnessed in Watson's story was not "Ain't going to die" but "Is he coming to take me now?" On Oct.



HIS BOOK is the story of what changed at the push of a button, another Pulitzer-winning photo as its author killed himself

3, 1991, when the Pers Battle of Mogadishu—made famous by the book and film *Black Hawk Down*—began, Watson, then working for the Toronto Star, was already in bad shape. In July, after an abusive American air strike against warlord Aided killed 10 Somalis, a mob of marauding looters tried to burn Watson's car. He was the only foreigner left in the Somali capital. Watson was hanging in, writing his way

through most of a case of beer belly, even daily sufficient to whether he lived or died, sharing the Somali's hatred of the armed forces that inevitably died from the sky, and incensed with the lies and evasion daily peddled by UN and U.S. military spokesmen. When Aided's forces finally overran Watson's car on a dark Black Hawk in September, Watson reached the aid and reported scenes of worst-case pending death of human flesh on sticks. But the Pentagon heavily denied it, claiming to have recovered all remains. Watson, by then the only Western reporter left with a camera, was determined to score great last time.

On the morning of Oct. 4, after fierce night-time fighting killed 10 Americans and more than 500 Somalis, many of the women and children, a hungry Watson looked to a member of a dead American being paraded in the streets. Being roughed over the beating of his Somali helper, Watson went looking, eventually finding a crowd of people pole from between shouting officers and striking another Westerner.

The mob pulled, letting him see Cleveland's corpse as an individual soldier, not a symbol, looking, looking, or spitting on the lifeless flesh. The moment of choice, when Watson "had to decide whether to stand dead next to his last friend of war," still lives in his mind. "As he raised the camera, the world went quiet and he heard a voice: 'If you do this, I will owe you forever.'" Watson passed the shutter.

"My photograph says 'I was my subject's killer,'" Watson says matter-of-factly, "but I have no question in my mind that it was Cleveland speaking to me, not a camera staff." Not that his world, already crumbling, would ever be the same. "The following May, as the gods decided, Watson was in New York, accepting the Pulitzer Prize for new photography. There he encountered South African warlord Curne, two years younger for feature photography for his shot of a white man being taken to a waiting Saddam

gun to die. Curne was himself—in a moment of shot—the messianic figure responsible for people who ignored the fact that the photo was taken in a refugee camp staffed by overwhelmed aid workers, and wanted to know when Curne had done to help the girl. His answer, that he set under a tree. It is a moment and word, didn't surely has continued. And perhaps not him. Two months after the Pulitzer, Curne's strange act on drugs and missing up his assignments, killed himself.

In those days, Watson, contrary to high on drink and drugs, prone to bouts of crying and embroiled in an abusive relationship, must have thought of suicide too? "I didn't have Curne's strength," he says. "What I did instead was place myself in situations where someone else would kill me." To "improve" his chances of that, Watson writes with black humor, he made himself dangerous via Somalia's wilderness, a 500 km journey that was one of his most peaceful African trips ever. "I just couldn't catch a break."

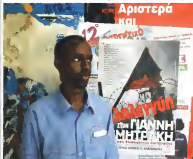
Watson, as fact, part of a running, from one horror story to the next—Rwanda, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan—collecting images, verbal this time, that will haunt readers (taken) as much as Cleveland himself has. There's Watson standing by the Bosnia-Serbia border, awaiting a just and waiting corpse with one human body, among them three naked children caught in a whirlpool, "riding up and down against the rocks like red dolls, looking like a family together."

And when Cleveland accompanied him, sometimes more nervously present than when he was, he met Afghan soldiers laughing at the bullet-riddled bodies of Taliban fighters by a highway. "There was a day that I don't think of him and wonder if the figure," Watson says. "But he's not. I never learned to live with him. I'm emotionally more healthy." Part of that health comes from Watson getting lucky and never seeing—no one did then the father of shooting him, but he did meet his future wife and mother of his son, now 7.

But another part comes from some hard won wisdom. "As I walked about chasing my memories for the book, re-interviewing people and connecting again with war-torn and war-torn, the time I listened to their stories. The war-torn figure I found was what most of them, beyond the horror of war, was that they didn't want to be killed, they didn't want a gun or a rifle. The people I found to war are all convicted people. Some, that would never die, where war lives. I've lived so far, I've lived to see to start with our lives, with two very pretty daughters and broken body." From anyone who hasn't been, physically and emotionally, where Watson has, that could be in an empathetic mood. From him, it sounds like a ray of hope. ■

A BACK DOOR TO EUROPE

Greece is increasingly the gateway of choice for illegal migrants



HMS Chavira, one of 120,000 migrants who cross the Aegean sea on each year

BY DANIEL HANALEK • Many Chinese lost his father when he was six years old—somehow part of a man's heart. Today China's border, Mogadishu, remains torn by civil war and still serving warlords. Al Qaeda has been known to visit. So last September, Chinese, now 18, left Somalia's capital on what became a six-month odyssey, bound for Europe with a unusual of phrase, "A better life." He says. His without unambiguously long distances, said boats, limited rules, world-class police arrest him in Yemen, Syria and Turkey. Each time, he was told in no uncertain terms to leave the country. Finally, last March, in the dark past capital, China, and even when he got migrants—leading an Afghan, Iraqi and Nigerian—paid what money they could

to board a dangerously rickety fishing vessel and, under cover of darkness, headed for the European Union by way of the Greek island of Samos. High seas and waves battered them as when he became an eight-hour ordeal that they finally made land. "We feel that we have everything in the world," Chinese reads with a smile. "We have life."

Up to 120,000 illegal migrants each year cross the Mediterranean, heading for Europe's southern shores, according to the International Center for Migration Policy Development, an intergovernmental organization affiliated with the United Nations. In the past decade, at least 30,000 of them have died trying. In the case of Greece, which is also subject to illegal migration from north-bearing Albania to the northeast, illegal migrants from the south can vent by illegal



as well, before attempting or taking a boat across the Bosphorus to the European Union. That nation's heavily militarized northern border with Turkey. And while this massive movement of human cargo—either by land or sea—is not new, it is on the rise, according to Frontex, the EU's border control agency. Greece, as the vulnerable southern player in the EU's southeastern periphery, plays a pivotal role. It is one of four countries that qualified for illegal entry via the 27 member alliance of states, says Michael Pappas, a Frontex spokesman based in Warsaw. (The other three are from the North African coast to Spain's Canary Islands, from North Africa through the several Mediterranean to Malta or Italy, and an eastern route, through Ukraine and Belarus to Poland, Slo-

PHOTO: WATSON/STYLING: KEVIN BROWN; COURTESY: FRONTIER; PHOTO: WATSON/STYLING: KEVIN BROWN; COURTESY: FRONTIER

valia and to release miners, Hungary." Greece is extremely important for them, and that's why we put more and more efforts to stop registration there," says Papayork. "Greece is not always the destination country. Once they enter, they can freely move to other member states."

While that's becoming tougher to do in the post-9/11 world of more and security, it's hardly responsible, as Greece's experience shows. Illegal immigrants arrested by the authorities are separated, by law, to be released within three months. And legitimate refugees from countries plausibly wary of coming to Albania may apply for asylum. From the moment an application is requested, applicants cannot be expelled or removed for legal entry. They receive health care, food, as well as shelter in religious centers, space permitting. These

DELETED asylum, they join the black market for low-paid jobs



APPLICANTS CAN'T BE EXPELLED; THEY GET HEALTH CARE, FOOD, SHELTER

deemed to have no valid claim are released with a deportation order. They then often seek out friends or family and enter the black market for low-paying jobs that Greece awards generally freely to do. Others try to catch a ship to Italy and polio north.

EU member nations provide their own border controls, but Greece was created to coordinate these multinational efforts. The agency also occasionally plays its role with active interest most of its own when EU countries feel delayed by illegal migrants in Greece. Does not, or while a France's own risk analysis identifies his spots. Human Operations Procedures Commission, led by Jean-Pierre Brouzet, that this year is targeting Greece's land border with Turkey to the east, Albania and Bulgaria to the north, as well as the Aegean Sea, and employs patrol boats and land mines, border police, and aerial surveillance. In June, France announced completion of phase one, which over three weeks in the spring included a relatively modest 910 digital surveillance, plan 194 fargod or falsified travel documents. At all, 88 new guards were directed back to their country of origin, and France arrested 13 smugglers. The majority of illegal migrants were from Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq and Albania. Three was under way, with plans three planned.

Last spring, Yoon Polydoras, Greece's minister of public order, made a widely circulated and important plea to his fellow EU countries in the southeast. He claimed that last year, Greek authorities detained 300,000 illegal immigrants across the country. "We're at the extreme end of the EU border and I'm crying out to Europe," he said for help, Polydoras said. Ultimately, he wants France to tighten the country's borders, although some observers wonder whether that might

have more to do with Greece's economy, which is not much larger than Belgium. "Turkey," I have seen many statements about this [number of 300,000]," says Anna Triandafyllidou, a senior research fellow at the Athens-based Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy. "I don't think [Greece] is the preferred route, to be honest, and certainly don't think it's an emergency in terms of numbers," she says. "I think the Greek government, and perhaps with good reason, wants to make this border more visible at the European level," so attract investment for additional security against the Darfur.

Triandafyllidou would rather see more attention paid to the illegal migrants who get blown up in Greek outposts along the Doros River every year. Between very widely, she

the 2006 report by the International Committee to Borderland, a network of more than 1,400 NGOs, said that as many as 47 people were killed there between 2000 and 2005. "Along the Doros River, along the border, there are a lot of mines because of the terror Greek [Turkish] relations," Triandafyllidou says. "and many of the people get hit in the minefields and this is the reason for the media to pay attention to it."

Migrants' claims complicate Greece's mission in its recently formed an Albanian woman on an Athens bus, demanding the surrender her name that "and Greece" could

limit their rights. It's a little like demanding. "Virtually no one hoping to be taken seriously would suggest Europe's borders be drawn wider open, including Triandafyllidou, but she wonders whether the current regime sustained as something might make more sense." It's a somewhat like 1,000 euro to do part membership from Greece to Albania, but if you want to develop a sub-Saharan African from Belgium to most about a decade, Triandafyllidou says. "Now, it is logical to spend this amount of money on, for instance, charter flights, sending people back to Afghanistan, China, or China? Or there are other ways to manage this."

For now, the authorities are scrambling to plug the EU's porous borders. In March Greece's new, the Greek police in Athens around their wandering down a road the day after he landed. He spent a day in the island's other on detention center, Korymbos, a cigarette factory dating back to the 1950s whose living conditions have been called "appalling, deplorable and inhuman" by the European Parliament's committee on civil liberties, justice and human rights. The Greeks will handle it, but so go to Athens to be processed. He went, on his own accord, and has applied for refugee status. "I'm just in the city," Chinese says. "I have nothing to do." And in many ways, the European Union doesn't know when to leave with him.

THAILAND: BAD COPS WON'T GET WHITTEN
An ancient proverb by the Bangkok police to emphasize officers' quality of minor infractions by making them more like whitey arms bands has fallen through. Last week the police reversed a proposal to make cops who litter or arrive late for work wear pink armbands with the national emblem (character on it). One reason for dropping the program: protesters from Hei Kio Park who didn't like their children use associated with monarchy.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE GRANITZ/REUTERS

Somali media: 'We won't be intimidated'



SHARMAHAT'S GRAVE: Reporting false created a lot of confusion

BY MICHAEL PETROW • Things were marred two years ago in Mogadishu, Somalia, last weekend have failed to drive the radio and television stations where the men—indeed, reports Somali Canadian—worked in order to bring his and independent media to their war-torn country. Ali Husein Sharmahe left Ottawa for Somalia in 1999 and opened Hiraalka Media, the country's first independent radio station, with two other Somali Canadians. He was killed in a bomb attack on Saturday, only hours after one of Hiraalka's most popular journalists, Mohab Ahmed Elmi, was fatally shot in the head outside the station. Two men are in custody for the murders.

Hiraalka's public relations officials insist in Somalia's standard and conflict that past days had been peaceful, independent and a government backed by Ethiopian troops against each other. It has a reputation for reporting the news fairly and it takes no sides other than that of Somalia's suffering citizens. The station has made a lot of money as a result. "In the last seven years, we were facing all sorts of attempts to stop the station, to bomb the station, to intimidate people," Ahmed Abdulkadir Ali, director of programs at Hiraalka, told Reuters. "But whatever we've seen this level of brutality."

Ali also lives in Ottawa for several years before returning to Somalia to help launch Hiraalka. He was visiting Canada when his colleagues were murdered—a point of fact that might have saved his life. But Ali was shortly be returning to Somalia to resume his journalistic duties. "The idea was to come here to do it and to make sure that we stop," he said. "But it will produce an adverse reaction. We will continue to say on the way. We will not be intimidated. And we will continue the work that Ali did for Hiraalka. Ali will be dead in years."

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE GRANITZ/REUTERS

Huckabee busts out of his igloo

BY LURIA EN SANABE • Remember the guy who was spotted by Rick Warren on his way to the Vatican on his way to the Vatican? That was Mike Huckabee, and he's running for president. And as of Saturday, he is no longer a minor footnote in the Republican field.

Huckabee, 51, is a formerly obese, former Republican governor of Arkansas who once barely clung to the race but then came out and he began to gain momentum, beating odds in schools and leading his home with his own cash on his body mass index. But last weekend he was underdog, but for the presidency seemed less unusual media attention than a report that Rudy Giuliani's wife Judith Livia Vance had bagged his own seat on the private jets.

All that changed on Saturday as the strap fell on Ames, Iowa—a man in which 4,302 Iowa Republicans came together to vote. They had him at the top of the polls (his wife being still five weeks before the Iowa caucuses and 11 months before election day). Huckabee surged from three per cent in the national polls to second place in Ames with 18 per cent of the vote, although, granted, from runner Rudy Giuliani and John McCain.

He did not participate, and Fred Thompson has not formally entered the race. The straw poll was former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney's loss, and he spent millions of dollars in securing his winning 11.5 per cent. That Huckabee's surprise leapfrogging of the candidates had him won the "straw" winner.

HUCKABEE: Filling a void for social conservatives
The bean in that Huckabee could fill the void for social conservatives made it feel with the top tier candidates. A former pastor and head of a religious TV station, Huckabee supports teaching creationism alongside evolution, anti-gay marriage, gay marriage and civil unions. But it's opposition to illegal immigration that is gaining the party base, and he supports giving undocumented workers a path to citizenship. Squaring that circle could prove tougher than losing 100 lbs.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE GRANITZ/REUTERS

Life is harsh for Europe's brown bears

BY JORDAN THOM • Russia died on Aug. 9 at 8:30 a.m. on a highway near the village of Vapni in the foothills of the Pyrenees, not far from the shores of Lourdes in the south of France. Nobody in the vehicle that struck her was hurt. The French ministry of ecology issued a solemn press release last night that day confirming her death.

France was one of five European brown bears reintroduced into the Pyrenees by treaty as part of the government's high-profile effort to restore the region's biodiversity, which had all but vanished by the 1950s. Though still native to Russia and the Balkans, bears have been all but wiped out in Central Eur-



A BROWN BEAR LUCK FRANKS: Banned 'psychotic' by residents

ope. France, however, became an offshoot example for critics of the brown bear. Last month, it was branded "psychotic" by local residents opposed to the animals. Gilles Auzan, the president of the Pyrenean National Park, admitted to the Times of London that France had been responsible for 98 of the 97 attacks on other people's sheep in 2004, and that France had been blamed since her age—though they thought they were getting a year old who would breed, France was not an animal 27 years old.

Opposition to the Pyrenean program has been wild, marked by protests and one of the deployment of guns aimed at it in honey on point. Russia recently made protests in Italy and Austria have also sparked debate, and have produced their own wildlife magazine. The Bears, who captured the first light in Germany for his wandering, but who were killed by hunters in the Alps last year after developing a pattern of attacking livestock. Under the terms of an agreement with Spain and Austria, France will continue to introduce bears into the Pyrenees—30 more over the next few years, despite France's legacy of sheep-owning and controversy. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE GRANITZ/REUTERS



THAILAND: BAD COPS WON'T GET WHITTEN

An ancient proverb by the Bangkok police to emphasize officers' quality of minor infractions by making them more like whitey arms bands has fallen through. Last week the police reversed a proposal to make cops who litter or arrive late for work wear pink armbands with the national emblem (character on it). One reason for dropping the program: protesters from Hei Kio Park who didn't like their children use associated with monarchy.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE GRANITZ/REUTERS



THE RECOVERY sector consists of liquidators as well as specialty funds, appraisers, auctioneers, firms capitalizing on the pain of others.

LET THE RECOVERY BEGIN

Markets careen, funds struggle: It's great news for one business sector

BY JASON EMMY • It's getting brutal out there. The meltdown in the subprime mortgage sector, with its no-down-payment loans to high-risk borrowers, could cost a \$1.7 trillion American to lose their homes, sending shock waves through the housing sector. Several multi-billion dollar investment funds have either collapsed or are struggling to survive. And stock markets the world over have been on fire. Four years of optimism have suddenly given way to fear. Finally, things are starting to look up for Toronto money manager Alex Jurewicz.

If that sounds in odd, it's not. Jurewicz is CEO of Recovery Partners, an investment firm he launched in 2007 to pursue the risky strategy of buying portfolios of underperformed corporate loans from banks in North America and Europe. By purchasing up the debt of struggling companies, he aims to take over the businesses, turn them around, and sell them. It's a process of resurrection, akin, he says, to safely catching a falling knife, but it's one that produces huge returns.

Jurewicz is part of a relatively small but vital niche of the business world that thrives on the trials and tribulations of other com-

panies. In addition to specialty funds like Recovery Partners, there are liquidators, appraisers, accountants, and investment lawyers and accountants. In each case they are experts at the fine art of pricing risk. One job of appraisal firms, for instance, is to estimate the value of a bankrupt company's assets, put up the cash for the right to sell those assets, and then they can get a higher

as a credit crunch spreading to other sectors. "I hope so," he says. "All the bad loans have already been made. They're just waiting to turn bad, like fruit left out on the counter." With credit now threatening to infect the rest of the economy, it's easy to begrudge companies that capitalize on others' pain. But, the sector plays a crucial and entirely normal role in the economy in healthy times.

LOANS AND LOW INTEREST RATES STAVED OFF CRISIS TILL NOW

panies in the market.

In short, there are the scavengers of the capitalist ecosystem, a herd of vultures circling the corporate carcasses. And the smell of blood is long overdue. Low interest rates and a flood of cash have helped many troubled companies stay afloat for years, which has led to an era of record low defaults and put a strain on the entire sector. "The whole industry has been depressed because of the default rate," says Jurewicz, who, despite having \$100 million in his disposal, has put in just \$10 million to work. Now, as the high-prime mortgage collapse ripples beyond the housing sector, some fore-

casters say the global economy became weak on cash that fueled powerful hedge funds and private equity firms. It was a great era to buy anything and everything. The house price boom was matched by a risk appetite spread by companies and funds, who borrowed heavily to fund their appetites. The deluge of easy money largely left the largest Recovery Partners on the sidelines. Defaults, which are triggered when companies fail to make debt payments or break the terms of their loan contracts, have soared around 50 percent for the last three years. In a typical year, default rates on corporate bonds and loans can be anywhere from three per cent to 10 per cent or even higher. Even the riskiest of loans have hardly deluged recovery firms. Now, they're becoming scrappier, struggling with their debt. Have found a steady stream of investment funds willing to pro-

investors and businesses need to forget the risk side of the risk-averse equation, says Lawrence Kravetz, a finance professor at Concordia University's John Molson School of Business. "You have to be able to take the pain," he says. "What's worse, when things do

start to soar, as they do now, the natural inclination is to do everything possible to avoid that pain. Central banks around the world have pumped hundreds of billions in cash into financial markets to stave off crises. Yet failure is an integral part of the business cycle. "If you don't have a downing process where certain firms go under, the pain is delayed," he says. "Generally that means the pain will be that much greater later on."

There's no denying the past four years have been brutal for investors, auctioneers, and more acquirers of Cripples, while the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan has had to move investors in BCE the terms of that move, otherwise deal would be same. Situation are

them over more money. "On the one hand nobody is going to keep and nobody is going to throw out of work," says Jurewicz. "But it also means there may be less of people lending money on non-economic terms and that means firms that shouldn't be surviving are being kept afloat by cheap credit."

There are signs that money is drying up. Several high-profile takeover deals have failed. Billion-dollar debt has run into questions over credit scores. Private equity firm Cerberus struggled to sell US\$1.1 billion in loans and more acquisitions of Cripples, while the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan has had to move investors in BCE the terms of that move, otherwise deal would be same. Situation are

JUREWICZ buys up the debt of defuncting firms, like the Record Mail auctioneer (below left).



FAILURE IS A NATURAL PART OF THE BUSINESS CYCLE. "WITHOUT IT, THE PAIN IS WORSE LATER."

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WHO'S BUGS BUNNY, DAD?

Selling old cartoons these days calls for creative new marketing

BY JAMIE A. WEINMAN • How do you market cartoon characters to children when they don't know who those characters are? That's the problem bug studios are facing when it comes to Bugs Bunny or Woody Woodpecker. They're tired and failed to introduce these family-favorite drawings to a new generation of children. And now that it's finally become acceptable that kids could rather watch SpongeBob SquarePants than Popeye the Sailor, the studios have to do the unthinkable: market classic cartoons to adults.

This year alone has brought a flood of DVD releases and other products that basically present certain characters as classic icons for adults, like Humphrey Bogart or some other classic. Recently released was a new Warner Bros. cartoon collection (from Warner Brothers, which squandered the rights to these cartoons a few years ago) and a 75 cartoon collection from Universal featuring Woody Woodpecker as well as lesser-known cartoon stars like Chilly Willy, who's rarely remembered for being mentioned one time on the Simpson. These collections include cheap old-growth toys that would be irrelevant, such as vintage audio cassettes, but they also restore some items that are usually buried from kids' TV for older consumers.

George Feltman, head of classic DVD releases for Warner Bros. Home Video, fought to get permission to release Looney Tunes and Popeye cartoons through his department instead of the "family entertainment" (a kids' error) department division. He told

Madness that this approach maximizes the audience for these sets, in a way that couldn't happen with traditional, kids-only marketing. "There is a viable market out there for pure classic cartoons, which young parents buy for their children. So we market these great films two different ways."

But even if the adults first approach didn't work, companies like Warner Brothers and Universal would have little choice but to try it: there's no other kids' market for old cartoons. For decades, those companies had a kid-oriented marketing strategy that benefited from TV airings and the affordable children's programming. Jerry Beck, an animation historian and consultant on their DVD sets, says that the cartoons were on TV



THE MALE CARTOON CHARACTER TWEE SELLS DRESSES AND PURSES



CLASSICS Bugs Bunny, Popeye, Road Runner, (below) Looney Tunes' Bambi on Aristo, Park Squalling at Tweety clothing launch

for decades mostly because the broadcast rights were so cheap. "The only reason we grew up with the classic cartoon characters is that TV programmers were too lazy to start a campaign to erase our cartoons," when TV companies realized that they could make more money from new cartoons, a win that all the classics on TV. "It's never late," Beck says, "to create something that might become *Younger Bugs SquarePants* or *Road Runner* than to revive *Highly Mouse* or *Red eye* the *Heppies* or something like that."

But the disappearance of TV reruns as a market for old cartoons meant that a company like Warner Brothers—which makes an estimated \$1 billion a year from Looney Tunes merchandise—had no way of keeping the brand going with a new generation of children. Particularly after the WB-owned Cartoon Network dropped old cartoons from its schedule. Four years ago, Warner Brothers attempted to counter the TV ban with a "rejuvenation" of its cartoon franchises, creating more than 300 new cartoons and licensing cartoons to a production and selling Joyous Comedy, editor in chief of *Looney* magazine, that it would re-populate Bugs and Daffy with "new theatrical shorts, a feature film, and a new animated series." But the feature film (*Looney Tunes: Back in Action*) and animated series (*Billy Looney*, *Bambi*) flopped, and the new series were so bad they weren't released to theaters.

And so, having finally realized that the kid market can't be revived, corporate madmen are identifying new target audiences. While home video departments market to adults who grew up with classic cartoons, the

marketing and licensing departments have taken a different tack: going after people who may never have seen their cartoons at all. Kevin McTear, Warner Brothers' executive vice-president for domestic licensing and worldwide marketing, told Madness that being consistently on TV isn't as important as it used to be. Because today, character brands are sold by "identifying and capitalizing on new lifestyle trends in reach consumers."

What this means is that cartoon characters are being marketed separately from their actual lived-in universes. Take Tweety, the little yellow bird character. Though the original *Tweety* and Sylvester cartoon are loud and violent, the character looks kind of cute when removed from the film and placed on a T-shirt. Tweety is now the most popular Warner Brothers character in licensing, because, McTear says, girls love him. "Tweety is our No. 1 character brand and our Looney Tunes breakout star with females of all ages." It doesn't matter that Tweety, like most classic cartoon characters, is a male. Warner Brothers' marketing campaign centers on the Tweety's small gender, and so the company has managed to take him out of context and turn him into a do-it-all marketing platform. "Our fashion platform for Tweety has created a huge buzz in the apparel and accessories categories," McTear explains.

So in the absence of the TV market, there are two outlets for cartoon characters: lifestyle marketing like Tween dresses and purses, and "classic" DVD sets aimed at hard-core collectors. The problem companies face, though, is that these two markets aren't always compatible. "To protect the marketing viability of the characters," Warner Brothers has put restrictions on whether they can be sold or shown on the Looney Tunes Golden Collection sets, even to the point of including a widely reviled disclaimer from Whoopi Goldberg (apologizing for any racially insensitive content) on one of the sets. And, of course, the licensing department has to scramble to hide the fact that these products are based on old cartoons, their licensing campaigns might be hurt if too many people watch the DVDs and discover that Tweety is a guy, or that he hasn't made a movie since 1964.

But overall, both home video and licensing executives seem confident they can still make plenty of money from these characters. And as television grows out, Popeye and Woody Woodpecker may never really be needed for the children's market anyway: they were made for movie theaters and enjoyed "decades of theatrical success" before they were turned into kids' TV cartoon series.

Ultimately, the new way to market these characters is just the way they were marketed in the first place. ■

Unloading shares, but not the votes

BY JASON KIRBY • In the whole ride and out-to-noon of investing, nothing tops dual class deals. As the new suggests, companies with two share classes usually have just two classes of shareholders: those who have votes at annual meetings, and the lead investors (a *Tweety's Class B* (non-voting) shares) were reminded of that last week.

The *Thail* family of *Tweety*, one of the few deals that control *Tweety* through a voting trust, have said they plan to sell some or all of the *Tweety* shares in the *Tweety* Shareholder. The sale could reap \$18 million. But the family vowed to keep the voting shares in the trust. So to ensure the trust's operations in the capital market, the trust controls 88 per cent of *Tweety's* votes. So at a time when the paper firms are under challenge, the *Thail* have dramatically reduced their financial exposure, while maintaining the right to control its destiny.

Dual class shares are a theory topic for corporate governance types. "It comes down to a question of fairness to the capital markets," says Peter Chapman, executive director of the Shareholder Association for Research and Education. "Voting control and economic control aren't in proportion with dual-class shares." The structure is common in media companies, including *Rogers* Communications, which owns *Madison*. The complaint and the *Tweety* case is that the family has reduced their exposure without giving up any control.

The *Thail* buying out of the *Class B* shares comes at a difficult time for *Tweety's Class B* shareholders. The newspaper industry is in turmoil, and analysts and investors are nervous. They may eventually take a hostile shot at the media company. They're no doubt the subject of the perched birds. News Corp's Rupert Murdoch would go to gain control of *Thail* Shareholder's *Class B* shares, which was widely criticized by the *Thail* family. As the deal closes, it's made about *Tweety's* future, the *Thail* have covered their eyes. It's the sale—even if it's not their money now. ■

Deal on veal: will it improve a calf's life?

BY DAVID KENNEDY • Another animal-diet debate was settled last week when the American Veal Association, having its first criticism over veal calves in individual pens, voted to require that all producers switch to group housing by 2017. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) celebrated the decision as one more in a string of recent victories, this year having won a general resolution on new housing, with several pro-animal producers, including Canada's Maple Leaf Foods, and fast-food chains such as McDonald's, all agreeing to support the change. The change would allow animals greater freedom of movement and social interaction.

The AVA estimates the change will cost the industry roughly \$120 million over 10 years, but it's hoped it will boost sales—per capita consumption of veal in the U.S. has declined from 1.2 lb. to 0.6 lb. over the last 30 years. AVA executive vice president Bryan Scott says the change is changing demographics, but he considers about 10 per cent of the decline to be the result of what he describes as the "degeneracy" of the industry. The AVA and the Humane Society of the United States. "How do we really want to see these calves? Do we really want to see them in the dark, which is a better life, and then they're, 'Well, really, we don't want you to see an animal at all,'" says Scott, pointing to PETA's campaign to ban veal. He's also a member of the AVA resolution in which the deal the ultimate goal is "no veal for any meal."



RAISING CALVES in groups may increase disease and mortality

And Scott is hardly convinced group housing will improve calves' lives. Industry data has consistently shown higher mortality and disease rates among group-raised calves, and when further research is done, Scott thinks consumer opinion could turn. "I do quite honestly have a large fear that people will start to see more animals being sick or dead," he says, "and they're going to say, 'jeez, we don't know if this is more humane.'" ■

What about a boat to Cuba?

Unsolicited advice for Conrad Black on how to flee the country
BY COLIN CAMPBELL



Since his conviction on obstruction of justice and fraud charges last month, Conrad Black has been free on a US\$11 million bail, with the restriction he stay either in Chicago or Palm Beach, Fla., where he has a home. Judge Amy Beach, Ene, who set his bail conditions, has denied him not to be a flight risk, and Black himself has never given any indication that he would flee.

In fact, he has been so cooperative with authorities. He remains confident in his belief that he is innocent and will win his case on appeal. He would be entirely out of character for him to suddenly adopt the lifestyle of a fugitive. But with the U.S. courts handing down white-collar prison sentences to rival those given terrorists and murderers, running no longer uncommon for those with the money and the means to do it.

Even if Black were inclined to flee, experts say the odds of a successful escape would be low. Even countries where extradition treaties with the United States aren't necessarily safe harbors. A fugitive's living conditions would be uncomfortable (think a shack in the jungle, not a five-star beach resort), and he would be a hunted man. But with a little cash and a lawyer, it may be done, say security experts.

Last year, Jacob Alexander, the former CEO of Commerce Technology, turned himself over being charged with backslating sales options. He has reportedly been paying money into the country to forestall extradition efforts. In 2004, after being charged with fraud, Herbert Ackerly, a publisher of pet care books, made for Cuba and then

remained there after being arrested. In fact, Douglas McElabb, a criminal defense and extradition lawyer, says he gets "hyped with emails or calls" from people who are thinking of running. (He can't and won't offer them advice, though.)

The poster boy for financial fugitives is Robert Vesco, a stressed businessman who came under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission in the 1970s for stealing over US\$220 million from a Swiss mutual fund company. Rather than face Russia and his lecherous charges, Vesco made a run for Costa Rica, where a well-placed donation bought him protection from extradition. When he fell out of favor there, Vesco slipped to various other countries, including Nicaragua and Argentina, before settling in Cuba in the 1980s. Apparently not content living on the beach doing nothing with his new Cuban wife, he embarked on a pharmaceutical scam, eventually running off of Fidel Castro and coming, at the age of 66, a 13 year sentence in a Cuban prison in 1999.

Even before Vesco, Cuba has been the fugitive's favorite destination, and some of the efforts made to get there have been spectacular. In 1993, Black Panther William Lee Brent hijacked an airplane to Havana to avoid trial for shooting two San Francisco police officers. But fugitives wouldn't have to recreate such dangerous scenarios should they elect to bolt for Cuba. Getting there is as simple as procuring a boat and making the short hop from Florida, says Brian Lawli, a former CIA analyst on Cuba now with the University of Miami. "If you drove to Key West and bought a sailboat and sailed it to Hemingway Marina, not far from Havana, you would have no trouble docking and getting on dry land," he says. Traffic is clearly monitored coming from Cuba to the United States, but not vice versa. The westerners are not as rough (many Cubans who escape the journey on homemade rafts drown) but are usually running with boat traffic, and navigating so long in the bays means in a sensory void.

While historically Cuba has had no problem with letting U.S. fugitives and serving extradition (in spite of the fact the country

HEMINGWAY MARINA IN CUBA (TOP); VESCO (HUGO CHAVEZ) WOULD PROBABLY BE A WELCOME VISIT, INDEED (BOTTOM)



has a 300-year-old extradition treaty with the United States), Lawli cautions that there are signs the winds are changing, pointing out an important, but largely unnoticed U.S. State Department document released this year. "The Cuban government committed to permit U.S. fugitives to live legally in Cuba and is unlikely to return U.S. extradition requests," reads the document. "While he stated, however, that it will no longer provide safe haven to new U.S. fugitives who may seek Cuba."

A better destination for financial fugitives these days is Venezuela, says Chris Mathers, an intelligence expert and former and current (SCMP) agent. Given that country's fast-developing relationship with the U.S., Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez would likely have no qualms harboring a wealthy, high profile U.S. criminal, even if only to generate some publicity while annoying the United States, says Mathers.

Leaving the United States via airplane is not as difficult, he adds. A common tactic used to get to Cuba, for instance, is to take a plane, like a flight plan for Jamaica, and they head from there to Cuba, Mathers explains. The fact that a fugitive's passport has been seized isn't a big problem either. Passports are useful for getting into a country, but not needed to flee one, he adds.

There are a few places to run to, however, and few countries left in the world that don't have extradition treaties with the U.S. There's a very limited number of places and most of them are pretty undesirable, says Frank Rubino, a Miami-based international criminal defense lawyer who has represented high profile clients like Manuel Noriega. He says Iran and Libya are possibilities, but they aren't places many people would want to live, a sentiment echoed by Mathers, who calls today's fugitive landscape "backwards." Most such places wouldn't be friendly to outsiders (especially Westerners), and while such countries usually don't travel in circles that would lend them the kind of connections needed to survive.

While such places tend to prefer more historical criminals, former the X-movie king John F. Kennedy (who wasn't a fugitive and was found innocent last month of the security charges he faced in the 1960s) passed time during his week-long prison confinement at a small, Italian-run island in a part of the desert where it would be possible to disappear, says Mathers. But again, the living conditions for someone as recognizable as Black would be terrible.

Even if a fugitive were to escape the U.S. and get somewhere like Venezuela or Libya, the lack of an extradition treaty wouldn't stop the U.S. from attempting to bring him

back, say lawyers. "You'd be arrested as the number of people are back to the U.S. who didn't have an extradition hearing," says Rubino. In many cases, the courts simply don't continue play in fact, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that it's not illegal for the

'IF YOU DROVE TO KEY WEST AND SAILED TO HEMINGWAY MARINA, YOU WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE DOCKING'



and agrees to go on and looking a fugitive from a foreign country, says McElabb. Rubino says when it comes down to it, fugitives must remember they have no rights or protections outside those countries where they hold citizenship.

Beyond the risk of being captured by U.S. federal agents, a fugitive would also have to contend with bounty hunters. Duane "Dog" Chapman, star of the TV show *The Bounty Hunter*, says someone with a \$20 million bail would be an attractive target, though typically financial fugitives don't owe him, he adds. "If the crime against

women and children, I'm on it. It's not some kind of white collar scam, I can catch him, but the gratification is nothing," he says.

Things have been getting more difficult for fugitives in the age of internet with the renewed focus on law enforcement, says Chapman, who recently wrote a book titled *Can You Run from the Law* (Viking). And those who are inevitably caught, it says, "I catch a lot of guys and they say, 'Oh, Dog, show you. It's terrible, it's a terrible life.' One thought he had, though, is enough, is enough thought. In 2005, Chapman went to Mexico and captured Max Factor cosmetics heir Andrew Lerner, who was wanted on rape charges. "I took him two days to catch. Andrew because he does have money and he's very arrogant," says Chapman.

Mathers agrees that, ultimately, the key to any fugitive's success is adequate funds. The ability to pay people (from prison guards to Third World despots) for protection or buy their way off is all that stands between safety and a quick trip back to the U.S. But even so, accessing money would be difficult, says Mathers. Known assets would be frozen and financial investigations would be more intense. But there are alternatives to cash. Martin Frankel, who was arrested of stealing US\$100 million from life insurance companies, bought 100 diamonds to finance a life on the run in 1996 before he was caught from his Government, Cuba, mentions the way, however, caught four months later in Germany, and in 2004 the diamonds were seized off by the Internal Revenue Service.

Still, even as a fugitive manages to successfully evade a U.S. life, several billions on the run are reportedly lived out fearfully in northern Cyprus. In 1981, billions are U.S. trader Max Bach was charged with \$100 million of fraud and fled to Switzerland, where he lived until President Bill Clinton pardoned him in 2001. After living and out far as evasion in 1986, American Jay Poon settled in Belize, where he bought a mansion (a loophole that has since been closed) and opened a resort. Because of the miracle of his crime, the U.S. hasn't pursued him. Poon declined to speak to Mathers, but when asked about his fugitive life, he told the *Wall Street Journal* in 2005, "It isn't so tough if you know what you're doing." ■

With Kate Lewis



SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK
Lenny Letter of *Law* has just got a bouquet in a hip-hop style with a note: "Just wanted to say that I love you." Now he's taking the florist, which sent a copy of the invoice and love note to his home, where his wife opened it. Greer had been talking the (joke) of a divorce with her, agreeing on support payments. After the love note arrived, Greer's wife more than doubled her settlement demands. Greer, in turn, is suing the florist for US\$1 million.



NEW VACCINE A nurse administers a shot of Gardasil. Almost every province has plans to implement an HPV vaccination program for girls.

OUR GIRLS ARE NOT GUINEA PIGS

Is an upcoming mass inoculation of a generation unnecessary and potentially dangerous?

BY GARETH GULLI • The morning after Emily Cardasil had been the first one to get sick, the new vaccine that protects against four strains of the human papilloma virus (HPV) that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts, she woke up with headache, and neck and back pain. By 11 p.m. that evening in April, she had a fever so high "you could feel the heat radiating from her feet alone," according to her mother, Lucie. She was delirious during the night, and the following day couldn't walk without assistance. Bedridden for nearly a week, the 18-year-old from Wisconsin raised

school, and took Tylenol every four hours. "If Emily had been the only one to get sick we would have said she must have had some thing else [like the flu]," explained Lucie, "but we know of three other students to have reactions, that is why we are concerned." Emily's story is only one of 1,637 cases of girls involved in Gardasil, filed last May to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a national surveillance database sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United

States. One could disagree with that happened to Emily because she had a fever at that time, day, but other really bad reactions have been reported, including seizures, paralysis—and even deaths. In one case, a 16-year-old girl who "died of a blood clot three hours after getting the Gardasil vaccine," reads one complaint. Elsewhere in the world there have been reports of similar reactions. In Melbourne, Australia, where a national HPV vaccination program started in April, 36 girls reportedly fainted and were mildly paralyzed after getting out that each.

In almost every instance, the response of medical authorities and government officials is the same: "bad reactions are rare. When they do occur, there's no evidence that Gardasil was the cause. Arguably, both points could be true. Some say the problem, however, is that no one really knows, medically speaking, just how dangerous this vaccine could be. "Usually at that stage in the life span of a vaccine we would not have this kind of action," Meadows has heard from Abby Lippman, an epidemiologist at McGill University who recently stated her concerns about the speed with which Gardasil has been adopted in the Canadian Medical Association

journal. "We're making games that it's going to happen, that [we're] maintaining the right age [of girls], and that it's effective. We don't have a solid basis for that thought."

And yet, nearly every province in Canada has, in recent weeks, put forth some plan to implement an HPV vaccination program that will see the mass inoculation of an entire generation of girls—some as soon as this September—with an unproven acknowledgment of the potential health risks they might face. While everyone debates the moral and political implications of making Gardasil, the fundamental, essential medical and scientific debate remains untouched. So, in a few weeks, when thousands of girls are vaccinated about the world and who will be in their class this year—not HPV—go back to school, many will become part of the largest Canadian vaccine experiment in decades. They will be the guinea pigs.

To find out the worst case scenario when it comes to Gardasil, one need only hear the stories of parents whose children have become ill or died after receiving the vaccine. Recently, one angry father from Chicago phoned up John Driscoll, an attorney at the law firm Brown & Croppenstein in Los Angeles. Shortly after receiving Gardasil, his daughter was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome, an autoimmune disease. It starts with tingling sensations in the legs, which then travel to the upper body, and finally become so intense in the muscles they paralyze, though often they diminish over time. "His belief is it was bad," says Driscoll, and wants to sue Merck & Co., Inc., the U.S. pharmaceutical company that manufactures Gardasil. This will be the first such lawsuit, but Driscoll, who believes the vaccine was rushed to market, predicts that, "anonymously, we'll get more and more calls about this in the future."

In fact, Guillain-Barre syndrome is one of the more serious adverse reactions noted in the hundreds of complaints filed to VAERS. "When you go to your doctor's office, the list of symptoms are very short, dizziness, fainting, but there's a whole laundry list of potentially serious side effects," says Dee Goethe, an investigator at the Washington-based watchdog organization Judicial Watch, which filed thousands of information requests to access details about negative reactions relating to Gardasil. "This information that everybody receiving the shot should know," she says.

Merck France Canada Ltd., which is the Canadian manufacturer of the vaccine, goes no further than Gardasil is responsible for the illnesses or deaths. "There is a relationship

between Gardasil and these events, but there's no cause and effect," says Sheila Murphy, manager of public affairs for Merck France Canada, the FDA and CDC have said there's no likely connection (they didn't see the two deaths from blood clots were caused by birth control pills taken at the time of menstruation, and the third death was due to heart inflammation brought on by the flu). But some skeptics find these explanations unhelpful and suspicious. "I'm not a doctor, but when I read this information, to me, that's a clear indication that there may have been a problem," says Goethe.

It's obvious that even in the best circumstances, many believe there is still not enough known about the HPV vaccine to warrant mass inoculation programs. For starters, there are concerns that not enough time—15-year-old girls were vaccinated during clinical trials for Gardasil. Approximately 1,100 were enrolled, and according to a June report by the Canadian Women's Health Network, only 106 of them were age nine, and that limited group mostly followed for 18 months. "Clearly, this is a very weak information base on which to construct a policy of mass vaccination for all girls aged nine to 15, as per the National Advisory Commission on Immunization's recommendation," the CWHN report summarized.

The CWHN also worries about the long-term effectiveness of Gardasil, given the largest trial vaccinated participants who received the vaccine were monitored for five years. "If we're talking about vaccinating more than one year old girls, we want protection for 20 or 30 years," concludes Laura Keenly, a spokeswoman for the

University of Washington who helped Merck design the clinical trials and oversee them for Gardasil. "Can we infer protection out to that period? We don't know. But we have evidence that suggests it's likely."

Inference, though, is not the scientific evidence some expect. Analysis beyond clinical trials is critical in creating public policy, warns Lippman. "After it happens in the real world can be very different from what happens in the clinical research world," where girls are in a controlled environment, and get health examinations frequently to gauge any problems. "The real world is where we find out what really happens when you let a vaccine loose on a population."

A study in the May issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* speaks to how real world situations such as "imperfect compliance" (such as not receiving all three doses of HPV), could take Gardasil's 79 per cent protection against precancerous lesions (which lead to cervical cancer) down to a staggering 17 per cent. "That's one more reason we should be slowing down," says Helen Krugier, a health care consultant who has advised the U.S. Cancer Agency, among other organizations, on Gardasil. "This suggests to me we just don't leave enough."

'THERE'S A WHOLE LAUNDRY LIST OF POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS'



NO EPIDEMIOLOGIC Advocates say everyone should be vaccinated, but this is not proof



HPV CERVICAL INFECTION The overall borderline abnormal. It will be redone in three months.

EVEN WITH THE VACCINE, WOMEN CAN STILL DEVELOP HPV INFECTION AND CERVICAL CANCER

What's more, there is some debate over just how many shots girls aged nine to 13 actually need—either the recommended three doses, or just two—which would cut costs (a triple dose costs \$65). A collaborative research project, which will involve about 800 girls, 20 trials into that upcoming winter will start work in B.C., Quebec and Nova Scotia. The latter province, for now at least, is going ahead with its three-dose plan for Grade 7 girls this September.

Nova Scotia is not the only province to get first plans for mass vaccination in recent weeks. Ontario announced it will give Gardasil to Ontario girls aged beginning in September. Newfoundland will administer the shot to Grade 6 girls, as will Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, British Columbia and Quebec are expected to launch their programs at some point next year.

All this comes just as Merck's competitor GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is seeking Health Canada's approval to market another HPV vaccine called Cervarix (already available in Australia, and heading towards approval in Europe). GSK claims that Cervarix's edge is an advantage: that, unlike, critics is stronger and longer-lasting immune response compared to the controversial aluminum-based adjuvants. And while Gardasil focuses on two strains (16 and 18) that account for 70 per cent of cervical cancer cases and two others that cause genital warts, Cervarix promises against four HPV strains responsible for 80 per cent of cervical cancers (types 16, 18, 31 and 45).

who has worked with Merck and GSK. While developing reasons where cervical cancer rates are high and stand to benefit from Gardasil, they aren't "going to really adopt a vaccine unless they feel comfortable that other countries have adopted the vaccine and they will and even vaccine with it. That's the history of how the world has gone in health care."

Merck has explicitly stated that Gardasil does not offer total protection against cervical cancer. And as the question remains, in the absence of HPV 16 and 18, what's to stop other resistant strains of the virus from evolving into something more aggressive? "We're making educated guesses of what we think will happen as the virus in the future based on what we know of the virus right now," says Rosalyn Adayar-stan of HPV's utility to occur, the common, because the papilloma genome does not evolve at a rapid pace. "But it's true we don't know," she says.

One possibility is that other strains, which cause the remaining 30 per cent of cervical cancers, may become more prevalent. "If you knock off two big tough drug dealers who control 70 per cent of the market and take them to jail, the other guys will quickly fill the void," says Andrew Lyrik, a Sydney, N.S.-based pediatrician. "We've seen that also in the vaccination world."

In the June report published by the Canadian Women's Health Network, medical experts point to a case study in Alaska, where native children were inoculated on a mass against a strain of pneumococcal pneumonia.

A follow-up study found that, since the vaccination in 2004, "the invasive pneumococcal disease rate caused by non-vaccine serotypes [has] increased 140 per cent compared with the pre-vaccine period." Studies like that one, the CWHN warns, demand that the medical community, the government and the public consider "how Gardasil, or any other HPV vaccine, might alter the natural history of HPV infections—and whether other HPV strains might move in to occupy the vacant real estate—before engaging in a massive vaccination program."

Knowing what is the potential danger of Gardasil, one wonder if the recommendation for mass inoculation is so many procedures is even necessary. The HPV vaccine has been sold by Merck and its proponents as a tool for making cervical cancer. For a quick look at statistics shows that the risk of developing this disease, let alone dying from it, is very low—in Canada, 1,390 women were diagnosed and 700 died last year, making cervical cancer the 11th most common cancer in women here, and the 13th most common cause of cancer-related death.

In fact, Canada has among the lowest incidences of cervical cancer in the world. But type and Gardasil has created a false sense of urgency about the need for the vaccine, according to cautious observers such as Lippman. "Either there is no epidemic and people were dropping dead on the street corner, you'd want to do something," she says. "We have the luxury to reflect, think and act wisely. Then we can put our foot into the street and cross [right now] like the yellow light mode."

When HPV strains, of which there are up to 200, do cause infections, they are usually slow to grow, which makes identifying them through Pap smears relatively easy. (A statement published in the February issue of the Canadian Communicable Disease Report, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization emphasized that "To guard... the vast majority of precancerous lesions, which progress slowly, can easily be detected and treated.") Even when the HPV infection is caused by one of the cervical cancer-causing strains, reports the Canadian Women's Health Network, it takes about a decade for the disease to develop—long enough for women to get their Pap test done (annually, and then every three years after smears come back clear twice in a row).

Despite these promising outcomes, cervical cancer is being named for a new millennium public awareness by Sharon Mosher, author of *Servant of the Sackcloth*, and a neurogenetic and embryology biologist at New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine. "The problem is that I've seen a majority of the subscribers

for [Gardasil] say everyone should be vaccinated, but this is not polo and a lot of people can have HPV and not every variant of HPV causes cancer as far as we know."

In fact, most people will spend up with HPV at some point in their lives and fight it off without ever encountering it. They were exposed to the virus, which is primarily transmitted through skin contact with genitalia. Aerialing to the Canadian Women's Health Network, most women who don't smoke, on well and have a healthy immune system will clear the virus without any treatment. And the Public Health Agency of Canada has said that more than 80 per cent of HPV infections acquired at an early age were gone within a year and a half. Don't deny, after a woman has fought off a virus, she has almost no chance of contracting it again.

HPV is so common that even infants and children have been found with infections, suggesting that the virus isn't just transmitted sexually, says Krugler. While there is no conclusive literature explaining how the virus might be contracted, some have suggested that newborns could acquire HPV while in their mother's vaginal tract. He never it happens, Gardasil comes down to these puzzling cases as their reason why the vaccine—

which is only preventive, and won't have any effect on those who already have HPV—shouldn't be given to all girls. "These data do warn against assuming too quickly the lack of exposure to HPV in even young girls in developing vaccination programs and policies," states the CWHN.

Even for the limited number of women who develop up cervical cancer, the HPV strains that could lead to cervical cancer, some say current screening methods—Pap smears—are effective and safe ways of preventing this disease. About 73 per cent of Canadian women between the ages of 18 and 64 have had a Pap in the last five years, and according to the Immunization Advisory Committee, this has "had to dramatic reductions in invasive cancer in the developed world."

Perhaps part of the test's effectiveness is found in the fact that the majority of women who develop up with cervical cancer—50 per cent—were either untested or under-screened, meaning they didn't get their Pap at all, or didn't get it on schedule, according to this advisory committee. As such, the current push for

young girls to be vaccinated largely ignores the group of women most affected: immigrants, refugees, Aboriginals, the disabled, poor and those living in remote regions (the rate of infection among First Nations in Northwest is 86 per cent). Relying on this, some have called on the federal government to multi-fund the \$100 million it pays for HPV vaccination programs in March toward targeting high-risk populations. "Maybe the money would be better spent buying houses who would not up mobile clinics and go out to the First Nations to investigate high disease levels," says Nova Scotia pediatrician Lyrik.

Even if HPV vaccination programs continue to expand, the public access to under-screened that young women can still develop HPV infection and cervical cancer after being

IT'S EASIER AS A PARENT TO GET YOUR CHILD A VACCINE THAN TO SAY CONDOMS REDUCE HPV

"DEFERRED COMPLIANCE," such as not getting all the shots, and prior exposure to HPV, could lower the 72 per cent protective rate to 17



READ SCOTT FESCHUK ON POP CULTURE AND ANYTHING THAT DESERVES LAMBASTING



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CERVICAL CANCER, 1,550 cases in Canada in 2006
 can't say and most cancer doctors will tell parents, why would you risk having your child get cervical cancer if you can't give a vaccine to prevent it? That they don't know what the long-term costs are."

Her strong, recent medicine took a few minutes to talk to their children about HPV as a sexually transmitted virus, and as talk to cervical cancer, and among other diseases. "It's much easier as a parent to get your child to have a vaccine than to understand

immunity, my experts. They will be a critical component to Canada's vaccine strategy committee. "Women who have been vaccinated will still be susceptible to other [high risk] HPV types. Even if those types are less prevalent than HPV 16 or 18, these women should still expect to make part of the currently recommended cervical cancer screening program."

Harper, the HPV researcher at Doronoch, also of a recent published study showing that, even if every female aged 13 to 26 is vaccinated, if they don't go for Pap tests, the overall rate of cervical cancer will actually go up compared to pre-vaccination rates. "So there is a significant danger as people flocking to this vaccine offers them a false belief, possibly," says Harper, "and that could actually rebound back to us because there are other HPV types out there and they're not going to stop smoking cancer just because we've given a vaccine."

All these questions and concerns highlight just how little medical and scientific evidence exists to make the case against mass inoculation a no-brainer. "The medical, scientific community has to do a better job, what are really the costs and benefits here?" says Moskowitz. "It's been turned into public health issue and everyone's trying to spin it their

'MY GIRLS WILL NOT BE VACCINATED,' SAYS ONE DOCTOR. 'BECAUSE OF ALL THESE UNKNOWN.'S'

have a conversation and say using condoms can reduce HPV exposure, therefore this reduces cervical cancer. I'll just give you a shot, then we don't have to talk about it," she says. Moskowitz believes it's a logical market for HPV in the vaccine against cervical cancer has been misleading. "That's not what this is. This is a vaccine against a sexually transmitted disease. I think that's what people should be very clear on. That really makes the frame of the debate."

Until more medical and scientific analysis illuminates just what Gardasil will do to young girls, Krueger is wary. "We have a small list of diseases that have many different types and affects so many body systems that it's just very complex. The fact that we have a vaccine against HPV types that cause cervical cancer is a real risk-breakthrough," he says, but then adds, "My girls will not be vaccinated. That's just because of deaths or adverse effects, it's because of all these unknowns."

With Louise Georgy and John Deaton

Man's best running partner

Exercising with a dog can be motivating. Best of all, there's no talking.

BY ROBERTA CRIBBS • As soon as the park doors swing light, there are "a lot of excited cries and barking off the windows ends for the car. The social staff when they know they're going for a run," says Calgary lawyer Ben Moser. Usual? Who, you may ask, get the excited dogs coming? Moser's "best friends? Cher, a 79 lb German short-haired pointer, and Oliver, a 60 lb Irish setter."

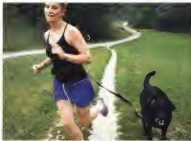
Mos is among a growing number of pet owners who do a lot more than the basic twice-daily walks around the block with their four-legged friends. In fact, many best friends have become man's best exercise motivator. "We run 20 miles," says Mos, "about once a week, usually on Saturdays." Other days, he'll take the dogs to Moss Hill Park in Calgary, where they can run off-leash with him for at least 10 to 15 km. "Without a doubt, he says, he's in better shape because of his dogs."

Mary Moran, 46, a Calgary nurse and triathlete, got back into running after the dog Lucy just over a year ago. Lucy is the 75 lb. Weimaraner breed. Moran takes Lucy running for at least 45 minutes a day. "Some days, she'll run with a second that is 40 minutes or less," even though, Moran explains, it's twice as much work running with Lucy as running by herself. "We usually do the same route. It's totally downhill on the way there. So Lucy is usually running at way speed and dragging me all the way there, at the turning point, she'll decide that's enough for her. So I'll be dragging her uphill on the way back." Moran says a leash around her waist. "But when we go mountain-biking, we let her off-leash."

Mos often running with his dogs can also lead him down a dog-safety mission. "There is a certain amount of, there's, 'maximum' that comes with them being outside, and if you're running for more than a couple of hours, that can happen more than you think," he says.

Barbara Russell, a co-owner of Buddy Systems, which makes a hands-free leash specifically for running with dogs, knows people who run 50 km with their dog. So it emphasizes the importance of pet owners training their male and cleaning up after their. "No one

likes to work out in a place that is filled with dog waste or constantly barked by angry pets." It can be scary for someone out on a leisurely walk to witness a dog coming at them full speed. "It's a serious eye injury," he said, especially if we're going bike riding, and she'll run or break off her bike," says Moran. "And some people do break out. The other day Lucy was running and she should just see three little kids and she ran in front of them and the father yelled, 'Get your dog out of the



SUITABLE EXERCISE REGIMES vary, says one expert, from daily walks to 20-mile runs.

run!" But Lucy is so focused on just running and getting the energy out of her system. "Russell says exercising with pets is a mode of people being more connected. "Finding activities that allow pet owners to not only achieve their personal physical activity goals, but also share their pet, is important. Kind of an 'exercise with a dog'."

Surable can run right away, Russell says, and can range from daily walks to 20-mile runs and hikes. "Size, age, physical condition and capabilities of the dog need to be taken

into consideration, as well as the maturity of the exercise. She suggests owners talk to vets for advice. "Not all dogs are suited identically for certain activities. This is especially important with puppies. If pups are exposed to certain intense conditions as too young in age, they can develop lifelong physical problems. For example, when our chocolate Lab was a pup, our vet recommended we not take her on runs more than three miles until she was at least six months old. He cautioned us that this type of intense activity at such an important time in her early growth could result in injuries to her hips and/or knees."

Ron O'Mahony, who co-founded the Calgary dog walking business Dog Walk, takes 10 dogs out for two-hour daily runs and walks. She warns that dogs, like humans, need to keep hydrated. "Most of her dogs have learned

to drink out of a water bottle. Also, their paws can get calluses if they're running on hot tar, so they need to keep them cool. She'll often get sensitive on their paws and apply mosquito repellent. She, too, says she now does more exercise than she has ever done. "What's good for the dog made up being good for me."

And the best part of exercising with your pet? "I don't have to talk to Lucy," says Moran. "I don't get so tired. When you run with a running partner, you have to talk." ■



BRITAIN: THE SPECTRE OF TEA-SHOP FASCISM
 If you drop by David's Tea Cakes in Brighton, you'll notice how the rules are set by the Queen. That you, not talk while the piano lady is performing, not insult the Queen, never eat the sugar cubes and never, never drink a coffee. After complaints that he elected someone for "blatant witicism," Daily denied allegations it was a shop fascist. "It's like the tea of tea drinking—this is not going to Starbucks with a mug of coffee."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF KRAVITZ

TONICS

A SOLUTION FOR MALARIA MAY BE ON THE MENU
 They're not only delicious, but like Blaise Placé could be a perfect cure for the world's most deadly disease. Although it's been known for 90 years that blaise (the larvae of mosquitoes that transmit malaria) is only recently that any research has been conducted into their role in curbing the disease. A new study in Kenya has found that when blaise were reintroduced to an abandoned fish pond they finished the number of larvae by 90 per cent.

'I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF I WAS TO STAP MYSELF WITH BOMBS AND BLOW ANYTHING UP, IT'D BE CREDIT CARD COMPANIES OR STUDENTOANS BUILDINGS'—DANCE-RAP PERFORMER M.I.A.

FRANK STRONACH THIS HUGGIE JUST WON'T BUV

A little lacker in the racetrack parlor is coining Frank Stronach's very last week. Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC), a horse racing and gambling company Stronach created in 1998, announced a second quarter loss of US\$21.5 million. The company, which owns tracks across North America and Europe, said it is going to scrap plans for a US\$100-million racetrack outside Denver, a project in California, and plans to sell properties in Florida and New York. "We recognize that timed site and drastic action is needed," Stronach said, a belated admission of failure after years of optimism from analysts and institutional investors over MEC's success. It's lost nearly US\$200 million in the past two years. The company has hired former MEC CEO Tim Hodgson to review operations. Given that Hodgson quit because of a lack of racing and gambling experience, the company's future is anything but a sure bet.

NICOLAS SARROZY HOLIDAY IN AMERICA! GET OUT OF MY FACE

He's not a very un-french, conservative type of government in his country's first 10 weeks in power, calling for longer work weeks and warning up to Washington. And Nicolas Sarkozy took a very un-French holiday in the United States last week, but he grew indignant when the press photographers followed him during a New Hampshire speedboat ride. "I don't like a swim, but Sarkozy came alongside the press boat, climbed on and gave the thousands a piece of his mind. "He was very irritated," said one bystander and amateur photographer. Sarkozy, nobody could fault his French journalist coverage of his personal life, was asked by repeated questions about who was paying for his luxury holiday. A vacation in the mouth of France would never have earned him the title.

M.I.A. HERE COMES TROUBLE HERE COMES TROUBLE

The artist, formerly known as Mayday, "Maga" and Prager, was the first London dance-rap MC M.I.A. has a magnetic persona that attracts more than just fans—controversy also comes her way. With a new album, *Kale*, out next week, she is finally able to visit the United States after a year of the authorities denying her entry without giving a reason. Perhaps it was because her father helped found a militant group fighting Sri Lanka's government. Or because her lyrics often seem sympathetic to terrorists. In a recent interview she didn't exactly sound like a model visitor. "I always thought that if I was some capital with bombs and blow anything up, it'd be credit card companies or studentoans buildings."

BUDHIA SINGH A CHILD ATHLETE AND CLAIMS OF TORTURE

When he was 16 km of a 70 km marathon in the age of five last year, Budhia Singh (pictured) was the youngest Indian to win the 100 km triathlon. But the phenomenal feat also sparked criticism by child psychologists. Singh, who is now 11, was exploited by his coach, Brijesh Patel, who was exploiting him. It could be worse than that. Singh's father, who is now 11, was exploited by his coach, Brijesh Patel, who was exploiting him. It could be worse than that. Singh's father, who is now 11, was exploited by his coach, Brijesh Patel, who was exploiting him. It could be worse than that.

DESMOND GREGOR DESKET ROMANCE WAS A DEADLY LOVE SCAM

It's difficult to say who was the pilot of the Australian farmer who won the 2008 season of *Millionaire* for \$100,000, or the headlines which doped him into coming, then held his for ransom. Desmond Gregor had met the positive bride over the Internet and was even promised a dowry of gold to marry her. But when Gregor, who has never had a girlfriend, arrived in Melbourne, his bride disappeared. Police managed to convince his public captors to drop him in the Canadian Embassy and wait for the money. Gregor was spotted out of the country while police hunted the kidnappers. Love has had its ups and downs, but Gregor just didn't lose. He went to the hospital to meet his bride but came home empty-handed.

RYAN GOSLING NOT JUST ANOTHER VANITY RAND

It's hard not to envy at news that Canadian actor Ryan Gosling has joined ranks with the likes of Keanu Reeves and Jared Leto and started a vanity band that's making a name for itself out to rock stadiums. But the *Crash* starwood Gosling, 28, couldn't really drop his heart into the *Millie Mose* Club alongside Justin Timberlake and he's also an accomplished guitarist. Gosling's vocal and strumming duties in his new outfit, Dead Man's Bones, and no, the band has one song on its Myspace page, a folksy bluesy-gothic number that suggests the band has a bit of room to grow. Gosling's new venture is a far cry from the *Crash* star's previous work. When you go into a bar at night, you see a lot of people who are just there to drink, but they don't really know what they're doing. They're just there to drink.

SIR MICHAEL SOMARE ENDING PERCES

Beginning a fourth stint as prime minister of Papua New Guinea on Monday, veteran politician Sir Michael Somare faces a new set of challenges from abroad: an employment crisis, a corruption crisis. Perhaps most pressing: a broken relationship with his wife, who made the impoverished nation \$10 million in oil money each year. The first strain from the case of former Australian lawyer John Mee, married an child on abuse charges. Most avoided criticism from Papua New Guinea last year when he escaped custody, allegedly with Somare's help. After working on a Papua New Guinea police the Solomon Islands, Mee was appointed attorney general by his friend and Somare's private secretary, Michael Sogavaru. A Papua New Guinea court that Somare ordered the fight that spared Mee away. Unfortunately known as "the Chief," Somare has enjoyed public respect for his personal integrity. But that reputation, under the weight of the Mee affair, is under strain.

RICK ANKIEL A BALL PLAYER'S STORYBOOK COMEBACK

When Rick Ankiel drove a sharp curveball over the right field last week, the crowd in St. Louis' Busch Stadium erupted in a standing ovation. It may well have been one of baseball's sweetest comebacks. Once the highest pitching prospect in baseball, in 2000 Ankiel decreased pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals at the age of 20. But then he had a meltdown, throwing the wild pitches in one inning, unable to regain control. Coaches concluded it was in the young lefty's head. In 2005, Ankiel announced he was done as a pitcher, and would try to make it as a lefty. Just a handful of big league players have managed the switch, including Babe Ruth. Last week, Ankiel reached his return to the Cardinals with that dagger—and the new slugger launched a pair of homers two games later. Sorry, Ankiel, watch your back.



NEWSMAKERS: (TOP) M.I.A.; (MIDDLE) FRANK STRONACH; (BOTTOM) RICK ANKIEL

fame

How Michael Bublé became the new Sinatra

taste

Juicy, brainy children

steyn

Intro to Parodia Composition

film

Retro high school cheer

bazaar

Fun-far fashion from Japan

help

Leave for now's Play Station

Why he won't just shut up and sing

Michael Bublé's got it all: the looks, the starlet girlfriend, a career on the brink of superstardom. But he keeps talking himself into trouble. BY JONATHAN GATEHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS BY NAOMI HARRIS

music

"If you write what I actually say, any mother will come after you and cut off your pee-pee." Occasionally it can be hard to tell when Michael Bublé is joking, but the three-to-seventy-five-year-old is at least serious enough. For the past couple of hours he's been upstage in the Vancouver Grand Convention, Nerv, rehearsing for the opening show of his U.S. tour, and things haven't been going well. His 12-verse ode to a hard-core singer, the one can't seem to hit the right and carmines are ripe for a diva fix, but Bublé has been behaving more like a teenager angling for a delectable smile between song parts in getting progressively more profane with each new stanza. Everyone is laughing. But it's only after he's questioned the soulfulness and percentage of his imaginary audience and looks out into the empty seats across a quarter-smiling way that he starts looking flummoxed. Now, crouched down on the edge of the stage, he sees his hand at being mean, sing, talk, then starts pleading not to be quipped. "Everytime I say something stupid my mom calls me up and hawks me out."

The *Burnaby, B.C.* native's constantly running mouth and flip sense of humor have earned him enough trouble lately. There was the crack about marrying his girlfriend, the Hollywood starlet Emily Blunt (who's out in the seats studying for her role as the young Queen Victoria in Martin Scorsese's new film) that got played as a straight-up proposal in the group pages. Another off the cuff remark about how he was going to stay home from the Grammys because his category, best traditional rock/soul, was awarded before the alleged ceremony and was a laugh for Tom Bennett anyway—made him playing as a per-

fect attack on a singer he adores. Adding to his missteps like scolding her three up in the garden at Leo DiCaprio's house. Or a booze-and-supper boys' night out in the Philippines that was mentioned in all its very graphic glory in a British magazine, and why get the sense that Bublé may be letting a lot of loose talk sing through in voice said.

The rules of the game are changing for the 32-year-old singer. He's no longer an up-and-coming kid with a nice backstory and a big set of pipes. Now, Michael Bublé is on the coup of superstardom. His new album, *Call Me Irresponsible*, debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top 100. In just 14 weeks, it has sold close to 170,000 copies in the U.S. and 1.4 million more worldwide. The 19-city American tour is already sold out, and will be followed by a string of even larger European dates—starting at London's Wembley Arena in December—and then a winter Canadian tour. All told, it's all signs to be on the road for the next two years, hitting more than 40 countries. He's already been in Australia, Italy, Germany, South Africa and the Far East. But if all goes according to plan, by the time he finally makes it back home, he'll be a truly global phenomenon.

The Grammys debacle was a wake-up call for Bublé. After 16 years of struggling to get people to pay attention, suddenly, they are. "I said a lot of s--- before, but no one cared," he says later as we sit in his dressing room. After the story broke, the blabbered two days at home in his Vancouver condo with the shades drawn. "What really made with him, he says, was the insight offered by one of his managers." She said, "For all the wonderful things that have happened in your life, and all the wonderful things you have, you do know that time is the worst of all."

It's that to sit, to feel sorry for a guy who

being the driver. But Bublé's greatest talent is his humility. Five minutes of conversation and it's as if you've been handed his life. There's no hovering PR fuck or manager. His newly acquired "bodyguard"—a job that mostly consists of ensuring Michael Bublé is warm outside of overheard grandiose during shows—is an ordinary bodyguard from high school. More than 12 million albums sold and he's still trying to break himself of the habit of looking up the bad reviews on the Internet and brooding about them. "It reads when someone doesn't like you," he says. "I want everyone to like me."

Juan Arden, the fellow Canadian who's opening act on this tour, has a friendly warning for the men on the side of the stage. "Michael's so shy that he can turn young. It's true." When the curtain goes up a half hour later to reveal Bublé at the microphone, Black sat, loomed in (Hugs! He's a sponsor), and he launches into his jazz cover of Leonard Cohen's "The New Mermaid," the female saxists are ducking. There's no much emotion in the air that the real danger for the pay night is the spontaneous development of a riot.

Since his sophomore major-label debut in 2003, Warner Music Group has lovingly peddled Bublé as the sleek, heartthrobish inheritor of Rat Pack cool. Michael admits that one of the ways he convinced the company to sign him was his vow to "work his ass off" to fill the crooner slot Harry Connick Jr. abandoned when he moved on to films and TV. But a key source of Bublé's considerable charm is that he never seems to take the hype too seriously. On stage, he smokes and jokes his way through the set, relentlessly poking fun at himself. A lot of drunk about what a really "cool cat" he is introduces a more than plausible imitation of Elton's *The Big Yellow House* (before he can hit Bublé played the King in a rooming house), which quickly morphs into a full field cover of Mike's Great Kelly—perhaps the comiest song of the last decade. "If this is your first show, you now realize what a dick I am," he tells the crowd.

Black, who has been with Bublé for almost two years now and lives in his Vancouver home, says the gulf between the real Michael and the glossy image is laughable. "He's not like the music," says the 34-year-old Brit, who shot to fame last year as the lonely assistant in *The Devil Wears Prada*. "He's a fart in a bottle." There's very little dancing, candle light and flowers, the lips and lots of in-between night watching the Canadian and playing video games. "It's all right. I like a boy with food down his shirt."

music That might be a definition position. Bubble's first can be, expertly pitched, answer: "They all hate me." Scott says with a laugh, the tell of a caddy bear that someone handed him secretly. Michael gave it to his real managers, who his young daughter? When I arrived at the house, the girl gave it a tight squeeze, unfolding a recording of the laundry list of comic phrases the fan had in store for the singer. And all indication are that Burt had just purchased as one of the women waiting at the backstage door. When Bubble gave it a good shake, the piano during the Burt's show and delivers a comic, head-on rendition of his *My Hero* (Always an *My Hero*) to the audience, he says well with some "It's bloody good, my boy, isn't it?" the winner.

46 per cent of Bubble's sales in the US came from Target department stores. The success for the new disc, says Kubik, was "growth without desperation." So along with the store chains, from a roster of Billy Paul's "You Got That Love Me and I Love You" (their songs became hits), and an uptempo duet with Boyz II Men that stretches Mel Turner's Coming Early into an unexpected duration, there's most importantly for Bubble and his pocketbook (commercial radio still pays way from cover)—there are two original compositions: the current single, *Everybody and Last*, and the direct ballad penned with Arden and Alan Chang, his musical director. A similar song on him, too, is about, how Bubble has even more proof in the US. Lost to perhaps an even more perfect Taiwanese audience. By Christmas, it should be unavailable.

straggling out of the building, steering corporate gigs his way, but was reluctant to take Michael on as a project (Foster is also a former non-president). "I drove [him] out," says Babb. "I'd commonly drive out to his home and say, 'When are you gonna sign me?'" An article about in Britain's *Guardian* newspaper suggested Foster agreed to produce the docu only after Michael raised US\$450,000 to cover the studio costs. Babb gives that version a lukewarm confirmation, but goes on to say that the "real story of his big break—like he can't sell right now—is even stronger. (A home based in a hotel? Milder?)

Beverly Delach, Babil's former manager, says that they did start looking around for a press director in the summer of 2009. Paul Anka, who went on to executive-produce the first album, even had a mysterious homicide

Michael products—420 teddy bears, 440 hoodies, limited-edition signed lithographs for \$200

The most lucrative deal he's done locally, however, was undoubtedly his June gig as the featured entertainer at the 76-million French Riviera magazine of Amsterdam on display at Jones Packer. He won't say how much he got, but when John reportedly received \$500,000 for playing at Packer's

live wedding. Besides, the job was not the only consolation. A friend asked him to play as a favor, he says, and with a guest list that included luminaries like Rupert Murdoch and Tom Cruise it seemed like a no-brainer. "It was good for my career."

Babe's kind of funny about money. He hasn't really brought much with his earnings, choosing to stay in his Vancouver pad, and drive a plain-coloured Volvo around town. He says

It's all refreshingly honest. But it does provide ample ammunition for those web sites and supermarket signs that taunt us rampant Perseomaniacs when Michael appears on American Idol in April as a last-minute fill-in for an ailing Tony Bennett, and deliver an anachronistically flat performance. One was suggesting he was drunk or high. (Buble says he was just nervous and that his head aching during a post-interview was the result of the oft-mentioned old hockey injury.) Others said unkind things over his joyful celebration when Buble won a Golden Globe last year while sobbing like a "tuna fish" symphony of the "real" Michael, now the cynics, firm in their belief that no celebrity can possibly be so nice and forthcoming as this guy appears to be.

Rubble seems genuinely taken aback that some people think it might all be an act. "I'd have to be the most brilliant . . ." he trails off. That I would almost on purpose begin or end a relationship within the cycle of making a record? That would be crazy? The real truth, he says, is that he just doesn't have a filter. Something he vows, almost daily, to

THE TRUTH IS BUBLÉ JUST DOESN'T HAVE A FILTER

Perhaps the most surprising thing about Bubble's live performances is how ill at ease he now seems with some of the standards that launched his career. In Reno, and again two nights later in Las Vegas, *Come Fly with Me* sounds more bored than *Chateau of Acid* with the exception of *Flower*, the chart note tend to get played for laughs—improvised jives, hardy jive dance routines—rather than romance.

In recent years, Bubble has frequently run down his first album (about five million copies sold to date) as "schmaltzy" and "crap." It takes to tell the story of an interview he once did with a respected New York City DJ. It dwelt on his live-on-the-air style—why he didn't just leave Blank space on the second island of his home for more recordings of a Sinatra classic. "I know he was right," says Michael. On the second record, it's true. Bubble again carved a groove for his "nostalgia" track, using the familiar Nelson-Bible arrangement of "I Got You (When I Need You)." When the singer comes up in the studio this time, the director held him "twee-like." "You're just dead body. It's not your voice anymore." "I'm 40," says Michael.

ONSTAGE IN BEMO, where he started his 1943 U.S. tour. In just 12 weeks, his new album, *Call Me Irresponsible*, has sold nearly 800,000 copies south of the border.

soiled up. But the "rocky" battle also seems to be a last-minute change of heart by Fox, who ended up paying for the demo himself, leaving it up to other Warner executives whether or not he has won.

In other words, the debt is both real and figurative. So far all the talk of "creative differences" and "hardly in the studio, don't expect a Michael Ballie rock opera any time in the near future." "I like to make fun of him too—any things like 'How do you hear your name?' You don't make elevators," allows the singer. "But there's a reason why real poets and musicians of people bought all those albums." And as long as the Blues is

their partnership have been rocky, Bubble says, he's content to let the hags and the critics snarl. The part of his story that people often overlook is the 12 years Michael spent plying his trade in taverns and clubs in towns that were more interested in the price of the drinks than the guy up on stage. Street cred is overrated. "I'm not in the record business," Bubble shrugs. "I'm building a career."



'HE'S NOT LIKE THE MUSIC. HE'S A FART IN A BOTTLE.'

It's off to her home—sold out show at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, and 7,500 seats are waiting in the lobby for the Las Vegas premiere of the new television show. Backstage, behind dramatic lights and a short, and mysteriously arching, a row of corporate sponsors. The crew from *Kenzie Doo* Walker appear to have been sampling the menu, as the point and those doing cameras are proving a bit better than usual to spend. But through it all, Michael is very much of broadly grinning, patient, his professionalisms undisturbed by the way he seems up to ignore just before the shutter is depressed (Mike says it's to snap him from leaving him the love, and the fact that adds an extra couple of inches in height, a pearly, oval-shaped, 13" the record comes says 13").

WHILE TAKING
Up with Eric

But what does seem slightly odd is that Eddle's press descriptions mention those types of insurance details, along with the kind of daily hardship that most people—famous or otherwise—choose to keep hidden. Like how Michael was unkindful to his former fiancée, the Vancouver actress Debbie Thomson, or how the "bawled" when he played his new truck about their failed romance. Last *Q&A* was also written for her. Everything is about Eddle! (Or the *Q&A*, in the July issue of the music magazine *Guitar*, where he talks about how much pop he writes, and how he first got dear—with his parents—at age 12.

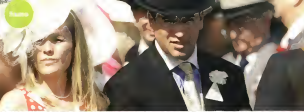


WHEEL TAKING a break from reviewing in Reno, Bubli hunkers it up with *Rollin' Blunt*: the roadie eats some food trucks and

The first night we meet, Roble seems to be talking to *Blurred Lines*, striding with a doozy or so of the people in a show line. "You're not saying about him?" he asks in a loud voice. "No, no, I'm serious." There's a long pause. Because it's hard to get laid if people know that I have a girlfriend. Attached being Michael's dilemma with a score of numbers that's way more dangerous than his music. And a guy that—for once or for twice—seems destined to stay the same, no matter how famous he gets.

Sorry, Mrs. Noble: Analysis, please—put
down your book. 30

enquiries@stefano-ilmartini.com



OFF TO THE BACKS: Canadian Autumn Kelly and Peter Phillips, the Queen's eldest grandchildren, in Asolo, where actors first engaged

Fasten your seat belt, Autumn

His mother is all set to be a monster-in-law, rivaling the real-life antics of Hollywood stars

BY KATHLEEN HILLES • Cinderella, where anyone's fairy tale is a crime, from kitchen hearts to royal beds, this old tale tells of the tabloid news, creating a need to propel some unknown girl to fame. Latest to get the glass slipper treatment is 11-year-old Canadian Autumn Kelly, whose season's engagement to British royal Peter Phillips ensures that she'll be in the public eye for life.

Like all Cinderellas, Kelly was shy and quiet before she met her prince at the Montreal Grand Prix in 2001. And as a management consultant, she's one of the countless young female dragons propping up organizations that defend her interests but never offer an entrance to the world above them. In like Melinda Gates, picked from the wilderness to marry Bill, Kelly has made it into the throne room, the only Canadian to marry into the Queen's family.

And if she's the tabloid's current Cinderella, 19-year-old Phillips can do handsome prince. As the Queen's grandson, he's 10th in line to the throne, 10th from away from the crown. The only son of Olympic horseman Peter Anne, he's good-looking enough, and close to the royal family's other prince, especially his grandfather Prince Philip and his cousin William and Harry.

Royals don't dislike anyone, Charles and Diana married after only five months November could be perfect timing, so it tells the fact to wedding anniversary of the Queen herself. Whatever the date, stand by for a busy tale wedding when Prince Charles looks like he's down the aisle into the happy ever after of Cinderella's eyes and tabloid fantasy. Also, we've seen her before, thank you and good. Diana's rare to come to see in court and out. Diana's rare to come to see in court and out. Diana's rare to come to see in court and out.

was a perfect groom for Kelly, but a not-so-perfect match. Charles was the same, and so was Peter. As Diana, but not so good.

Yet it's the genius of the tabloid to fix the facts to fit the tale. It's stretch with Autumn, but she's playing one. Shame about the name. England has never had a Princess Autumn, and it never will. It's bad news too that she's Canadian and wholeheartedly "provincial" when she could have been a real monster like wicked Diana Weyfield, the last North American to marry the prince in the 1930s when, reborn as Wallis Simpson, she snatched the prince of Wales.

Worse, Autumn's Catholic, as by unrequited queen Pope John, Phillips can wed a Muslim or a Muslim, but not her, without leaving the royal line of the same. Another Canadian Catholic (the son of the same) has academic Sylvia Tomlinson married a son of the Duke of York in 1981. A constitutional crisis looms now, in liberal attack the law and the monarchy's against each other and on the rocks of the Protestant Reformation.

So called law decrees that when Charles marries with his wife, it adds to her rank. Every monarch needs a little spin to add salt for the readers, and no couple needs it more. Phillips is no prince but a commoner, taking his status from his father. Anne's first husband, the decidedly unroyal Mark Phil-

lips. Autumn is far more good sport than fairy prince, and both are deeply ordinary, without a speck of stardust on a gilt. And then her last hope of happiness. Phillips has exactly kept out of the tabloid eye, there are no photos of him walking out of nightclubs, or coming rock stars as William and Harry do. His ex-girlfriend's name, which posted him and Autumn from the last that weekend Diana, going into the life of self-love like Narcissa of the woman added her in.

And don't forget the real story, the one the tabloid's wife's mouth out of loyalty to the Queen. Phillips's mother, Anne, belongs to the "Let them eat cake" school of royalty when a child's worthy tried to pick her up after a fall in the street, merely, she chewed his ear off. With one failed marriage and another half dead, Anne is all set to be a monster in law to Autumn, recalling the real life scenes of the late Jean Crowfoot and Rachel Welch, both of whom took their name's royal origins for events swirling the royals.

That's Hollywood royalty. The action gets higher with the real thing. Anne has been in a permanent rage since the discovery that the couple's first child had been rough, held in a home school and brilliant athlete, while cruelly cutting the whinging, non-bugging Charles to the side. So fierce your son will be, Autumn, it's going to be a bloody tale.

Do little girls in Canada dream of being Cinderella? I'm, beware of what you desire, the Spanish say. ■



ED HARRIS
The star of *The Night Shift* was detained at London's Heathrow airport last week after he tried to take a knife onto an plane. When asked to turn out his pockets at the security barrier, Harris reportedly threw his wallet on the floor and cops of about a minute. Harris searched the knife, presenting security officials with a cut police. He was released. "A 46-year-old U.S. citizen was given a few words of advice and allowed to board his flight."



ONCE POPULAR, the handy bird now suffers near extinction. It is estimated that only about 2,000 Chanteclers are left in the world

Six pounds but what's its IQ?

Zombie-like birds make for tasteless chicken. Thank goodness for the plucky Chantecler.

BY PAMELA GUTHRIE • When young Ontario farmer Mark Trifunac set out to find a new breed of chicken to raise on his small organic farm, he had two prerequisites. In his view, the meat and taste brought out by the bird. Although he was not a vegetarian, he was looking for something other than the modern day chicken grown today. He persevered, and all Trifunac would discover that the solution to his problem was a plucky Canadian chicken that, in the words of Ontario breeder Greg Oakes, "indicates what being a chicken is all about."

Factory chicken is in demand these days, with Chanteclers showing down on 116 per cent more chicken than they did 10 years ago. The reason for this is that most people are eating chicken as a protein source, not as a food for the palate. It's cheap to buy and raise, hard to be in flavor, and can be cooked quickly.

But the ubiquity of the factory bird is also an easy symbol of what has gone wrong with modern agriculture. The modern chicken is a model of efficiency, making less and less of its natural instincts. In its world, or half the life of the commercial chicken of 50 years ago, and dominantly two highly productive eggs—one for laying eggs and another for food. Engineered for "speed feeding," the broiler raises only the weight, but what it is still a very good food. "Once the chicken, they'll eat the residue to death," says Trifunac. There is a reason it would taste the same as it is. It's a far cry from the backyard bird that forages for grass, bugs and second edibles scattered from the ground.

Trifunac soon discovered "the common chicken that had their instincts left out of the mix." Of her current flock, he says, "116 per

cent have to be shut out of doors." The concept of "free range" food tends better at improving the economics of consumers than improving conditions for the animals. These birds, along with organic-certified poultry, are not legally allowed to roam freely in greenhouses, which they can reach through small holes in the side of the coop. But, as author Michael Pollan discovered in *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, when he visited the source of his Whole Foods chicken, the pasture outside, where the animals had an outdoor access, was "an empty pastoral occasion."

Luckily, Canada's unique contribution to the history of poultry breeding is known among specialty breeders for embracing the great outdoors. The Chantecler was developed in the early 1900s by a monk in Ohio to thrive in cold climate conditions. Once popular, the handy bird now suffers near extinction. It is estimated about 2,000 Chanteclers are left in the world, with more than half of the birds in Canada. Greg Oakes, of the preservation group Farm Friends Canada, has been raising the Chantecler for 25 years on his Ontario farm. He likes them for their low maintenance needs. "The temperamental broiler is the chicken of the future, so there's no leaving the coop," he warns. "But there's no leaving the coop for egg production." For the past few years, he's been raising the bird for the past few years.

And a few of Quebec are raising Chanteclers

the members through the Association pour la promotion d'élevage de la volaille Chantecler. The irony is that to save the breed, the animal must make it to market. A number of standards make this difficult. Provincial marketing boards control the supply of chickens through a quota system. Only a small number of birds can be raised outside the regulated system in Quebec, but that is a very far from naturally. It's hard for farmers without a commercial quota to make a profit, says Ansel, who has applied for an exemption to raise at least 150 birds outside of quota. "It's too bad we can't make the Chantecler more popular," he says. "The meat is very juicy, very tasty." But the birds grow relatively slowly—up to six pounds in over four months—and the market is limited for the higher-priced fowl.

Donald Shaver started breeding chickens more than 30 years ago. Well regarded for developing new strains and maintaining the diversity among poultry, the 40-year-old says, "One of the things you're up against are the marketing boards." Although Shaver is a leading breeder, "chickenpoker who's on the ground," he is more concerned with the loss of diversity. "They control the lines. This is a very serious concern for our food supply."

Trifunac, who is anticipating delivery day of his first batch of chicks, can't wait. He intends to raise the birds for market. It will take years, but already he has the interest of a Toronto high-end butcher. ■



TODAY'S SPECIAL... BREAST-ENLARGING COOKIES
Why bother with expensive breast enlargers when the "It-Cup cookies" from Japan will expand your front porch with just two biscuits daily? They contain "lightning bolts," an ingredient found in a plant from Thailand. It makes the female breasts, the article says, helping cookies expand to even breast tissue. Each cookie contains 30 mg of the ingredient, but it's not clear if the substance has a dramatic, potential cancer or pulmonary embolism.



Songs on the TV show show a rare kind of genius. What happened with the movie?

LET PLASMA TREATMENT

Three passes. The afternoon sun sinks in the sky. The crowd remains standing, albeit a little more drowsily.

Funny music requires a certain amount of seriousness, which is why genuine examples of it are so rare. You can measure the differentiation of the Looney Tunes franchise in the difference between Carl Stalling's six-minute musical scores of 60 years ago and the harsh jolt of generic incidental music punctuated by a string of pop hits that accompanied the same Looney Tunes. Back in Action music

Decades ago, Cernigoi heard Fidel Rivas

FINALLY, A BOOK ABOUT... A 21ST-CENTURY P.P. New Zealand author Lloyd Jones won the 2006 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for *Heaven & Hell* (Knopf), a bestselling (and occasionally horrific)—and also about reading Dickens in Papua New Guinea. In one village, during the country's 1990s civil war, Mr. Wells volunteers to fill in for the missing schoolteacher, and begins to read to the children from Great Expectations, to unexpected results. A novel that matches the power of stories against the power of guns.



The track with parody lyrics is always to stay as close to the original as possible. The manner was Allen (Yiffo Mudeke, Helel Adadi) Shumari, who made the Thairi Amani as Thairi A Moron. Obviously, "A very good butt" is a huge single-letter violation on "A very good year," and, to be honest, Moron's title (D) and staving up letters to Quercus

There's a *ringier* town I know
Called
Capital City,
People sing and scream "Holla"
It
Capital City
It's the kind of place that makes a town feel
like a living
And it smells a king fish like some scatty too
low super thing . . .

Of course, Capital City isn't exactly one of America's most glazing capitals, and, as the Serpents drive through the outskirts, you appreciate that on the whole it's heavier on the beer than on the warty lead-foo kings. But the parody makes brilliantly the fine line between beyond criticism and satire.

Fiction

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1 A THOUSAND SILENT SUNS | 1.000 |
| by Khaled Hosseini | |
| 2 IF LIFE CLASS | 000 |
| by Paul Barker | |
| 3 SHVETZHO | 4.000 |
| by Michael Ondaatje | |
| 4 ON GREY BEACH | 3.000 |
| by Ian McEwan | |
| 5 THE CAREFUL USE OF COMPLIMENTS | 000 |
| by Alexander McCall Smith | |
| 6 BEAT | 000 |
| by Chuck Palahniuk | |
| 7 THE YIDDISH POLYGLOTS | 0.000 |
| by M. Osherson | |
| 8 THE CHILDREN OF HURON | 0.000 |
| by M. Osherson | |
| 9 HISTER RIF | 000 |
| by David Copperfield | |
| 10 THE HARTFORDS | 000 |
| by David Copperfield | |

Non-Action

- | | | |
|----|---|------|
| 1 | THE SECRET by Thomas Merton | 6.00 |
| 2 | GOD IS NOT GREAT
by Christopher Michie | 1.00 |
| 3 | THE DEATH THAT CHANGES
ITSELF by Norman Cunniff | 7.00 |
| 4 | LONG MAY SORE
by Michael Smith | 2.00 |
| 5 | LAWYERS GONE BAD
by Philip Sooton | .75 |
| 6 | THE WORLD WITHOUT US
by Allen Tate Smith | 8.00 |
| 7 | THE BLACK SWAN
by Norman Tordella | .90 |
| 8 | FATEFUL CHOICES
by Gordon Turner | .00 |
| 9 | YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU
CANNOT HIDE
by Susan Bopp Chapman | .00 |
| 10 | CULTURAL AMNESIA
by C. W. Jernan | 4.00 |

1. *Journal of Management Education*, 2000, 24(1), 1-10.

It's against the law to frown
In
Capitol City
The fixer takes a capitol down
Where you choose to see
Fourth Street and O
— which is a dump, naturally. But the point is that the police wouldn't have enough to arrest the forces that accurately. The guy who'd capitol Capitol City isn't a fellow called Jeff Martin.

Who? Well, guy, I'd guess really, other than that he's a writer on the show. But he has a few kind of gross. And, if there is (as there surely must be) in this overcast and cold world) a Conspiracy of Paradox: Composition, they should be teaching him there. As said, I liked the movie. But I backed the Jeff Martin record. ■

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A SCENE FROM *High School Musical 2*. Twenty-4 Disney Channel productions revive games that had once been given up for dead

Old-school 'High School Musical'

The cult film sequel is out, but don't expect its young stars to be any less eternally retro

BY JAMIE J. WEINMAN • When *High School Musical 2* arrives Friday, Aug. 17 (on the Disney Channel in Canada), it will have a reception more akin to a big-time feature film. Chris Warren, Jr., who plays the part of a football player with a secret passion for baking, explains that the multi-million dollar DVD sales turned *High School Musical* from a small TV film into a phenomenon. "Most people got to see it, and it became more of a cult." Now the sequel, with virtually the same plot (sacks and pizza-fest celebration by celebrating for a musical), is guaranteed to make more millions for its producer, the Disney Channel. It's the part of a sequel trend for the channel, which recently surpassed Nickelodeon as the most popular kids' cable network. And it's all based on a very simple formula: total obnoxiousness to changing trends in entertainment.

High School Musical 2 received credit for reviving the film musical (something that big budget productions like *Disney's* couldn't do). But nearly all Disney Channel productions revive games that had once been given up for dead. The family-oriented hall hour shows have been abandoned by the major networks, but Disney Channel keeps creating high-tech extravaganzas that include *The Suite Life of Zack and Cody* (two wacky kids in a hotel) and *Cory in the House* (about the wacky adventures of a putty kid who lives in the White House). These shows could have been made 20 years ago, in the era of *Full House*. Gary Mark, the channel's president, told the *Wall Street Journal* that he concentrates on classics because "the broad cast networks have created this crazy social vacuum that we're only too happy to fill."

in "growing-up" movies and television. There's big money in being behind the times.

The people who run the channel are even harking back to an older era by building a stock company of actors. Many of the stars in *High School Musical* were plucked from other Disney Channel shows, like *Savvy in Life of Zack and Cody* (replete Ashley Tisdale). Supporting players from the *High School Musical* films are all over the channel. *My Secret Crush*, an ex-fiancee romance with a small part in both films, made appearances on *Zack and Cody*. "You become part of the Disney family," she enthuses. "They want to use your talents and get you out there in as much as possible." With Disney using *Angie's Ashes* and *Disney's* as movie after movie, now the Disney Channel is recycling celebrities in the same old-fashioned way.

The question is whether the Disney Channel's increased audience will translate into better quality. There are some signs that it's happening. *High School Musical 2*, planned for 2008, will be a big-budget musical film. Barbara Rappaport, the master of security concepts, once worked *Walt Disney's* *Up and Down*, a doing a film about a Texas school's stage production of *High School Musical*. And the Disney Channel's recent hit, *High School Musical*, managed to get *Harry David* in a guest star because his daughter was in the film. That's the Disney Channel way: instead of following modern popular culture, they make modern popular culture figures follow them. ■



WE'RE STALKING GEORGE CLOONEY & MATT DAMON

When the two stars of the *Ocean's Eleven* series of films were invited to leave their careers in their careers, they were invited to leave their careers in their careers. Clooney told *Demme* to get bigger about Clooney's said that the concrete impressions would sink and they'd have "glitter feet" on display for posterity. To avoid such an unbecoming fate, *Demme* was larger than life, while Clooney was smaller than life.



MAYBE SHE'S BORN WITH IT? At Vancouver's Tokyo Lash Bar, women line up to get mink, fox fur, even diamond-encrusted eyelashes.

Curtains for the window to the soul

Perms, tints and falsies from Japan dress up the eyelash in a myriad of colourful new ways

BY BARBARA HOGSTON • It's a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil, can you set off a tsunami in Tripoli, some fashionista on Canada's West Coast is bound to raise some eyebrows this month by simply having her eyelashes tinted. That's because Hokit Kierke's Vancouver store has a popu- lar new boutique, the country's first Tokyo Lash Bar, which is the retail outlet for the Japanese makeup line named for famed makeup artist Shu Chuan. It is importing the longest, thickest pair of false eyelashes known to womanhood—more than 100 per cent than the trademark diamond-encrusted firm Gisele Bündchen wore on her Cannes debut last year, the hell-sich long feathered lashes are actually on the underside of a yak. "They are not for everyone," continues Vancouver's Natsuko White, the Canadian director of marketing for Shu Chuan.

Eyelash extensions accessories line became a craze as Japan two years ago. To bring us here to the U.S., Shu Chuan opened its first eyelash bar in Manhattan in late 2005. In Canada, girlfriends in groups of four or five have been lining up for a pair of Lashman's falsies since the Vancouver Hokit's opened the Tokyo Lash Bar last spring. (Lashman bar will open as its main Toronto store in the new year.) The trend has also spawned a slew of salon services, including eyelash tints and perms. For the latter, see this: there was a small pink roller to apply a perming solution on lashes, producing not a wavy but a curl similar to the one women get by using eyelash curlers. Perming comes about like styling and lasts about three weeks.

Long, thin lashes have long been synonymous with feminine beauty. Cartoon character Betty Boop loved them famously in the 1930s, as did Twiggy in the '60s. But trends come

and go. Explains Toronto-based makeup artist Debra Caruso, "In the '90s and '00s, many women got used to more natural makeup. Now fashion's gone back to the 1940s. Think Rita Hayworth or Bette Davis. Big brows, big lashes. Full on glam."

What also aids the Asian influence for these popularity of false eyelashes "Asian are big on them because their lashes tend to be very short," she says. "Nowadays everything Asian itself is trendy, the look has come to the runway." Gucci, Calvin and Valentino all featured voluminous lashes in their fall 2007 shows. Other makeup companies offer their own versions, but Lashman is the star. White says its all different false eyelashes are currently the top-selling category in a cosmetics line that offers 600 products at more than 400 stores worldwide. Lashman got its start in Hollywood movies, transforming such stars as Shirley Maclaine into Joan Crawford for *Mt. Gekko*, before Elizabeth Taylor and Lauren Bacall started buying his products for off-screen appearances. Most recently, Jennifer Lopez donated his false eyelashes for an Academy Awards appearance. Maclaine followed suit with the mink-and-diamond version. (Lashman will duplicate them—yes, as real mink with real diamonds—for US\$9,000.)

If falsies or eyelash perms don't appeal, there's another option, at least in the U.S.:

surprisingly explained eyelashes that will grow every bit as long as the most outrageous falsies. For US\$1,000 per eye, pioneering Boca Raton, Fla., doctor Allen Bauman surgically removes hair follicles from the edge of the neck and sews them into the eyelid—where the hair continues to grow and needs to be regularly trimmed. Bauman claims his procedure "is the new frontier of cosmetic surgery," but other doctors are not so sure. Dr. James Geymender, an ophthalmologist and associate professor of ophthalmology at the University of Toronto, is not interested in discussing them. "Transplants don't work very well," he says flatly. "False eyelashes work well."

They're also, as it turns out, more enjoyable. This fun art is hiding around with glue and involves the privacy of one's bedroom. At the Tokyo Lash Bar, women with lashes up to brows and black as well as cherry red and turquoise, women sit on beanbag chairs within full light of passerby on Granville Street and have their lashes professionally applied by one of the bar's four makeup pros. The cost varies between \$69 and \$85, but Shu Chuan says will put the bar back on seven months for free. "Belongingly build up becomes too much," says White.

Still, Lashman says the most dramatic lashes in his line look like the wearer's own—so long as they don't come unglued. Cautions the artist himself, "Nothing to do in an unusual than false eyelashes that come unglued."



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: CATERPILLAR PUNGUS

Hermit crabs must crawl on their bellies 4,000 m above sea level to spot outbreaks of *Cryptosporidium* in the Humber. The fungus, which grows on caterpillars, is found in many parts of the world for its medicinal properties, treating everything from asthma to leprosy. Crop failures in Tibet and crop failures by itself in Nepal have left Bhutan as this year's only supplier. Prices for Cordyceps last week soared to US\$9,000 a kilo.

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GEORGIE JOAN MACDONALD

1921-2007

She was famous in Cape Breton for her beautiful mezzo-soprano. 'Oh, my God, she could sing!'

Georgie Joan MacDonald was born in the Cape Breton coal-mining village of Donnanville No. 6 (now Donkin) on Nov. 10, 1921. Her father, Robert Macdonald, was an owner of the Dominion Coal Company's No. 6 mine and her mother, Sarah, known as Sadie, was a housewife who raised eight children: Elliot, Robert, Rodena, William, Margaret, George and seven boys Halima and Grant. The family lived in a coal company house with a coal-burning kitchen

some about a 10-minute walk from the ocean shore where the children used to pick snails off the rocks at low tide, boil them open a soup can and eat them with peas. The family loved music. "When she had time," Rodena says with a laugh, Sadie played the fiddle, the accordion and the mouth organ. George taught herself to play the piano and sing. She devoted a powerful, clear mezzo soprano voice that made her popular as a choir member at St. Luke's United Church and won her many prizes at local singing festivals. She also won awards for elocution. When she was 14, George Donnanville danced band, the Billy Hunter Orchestra. "I have a list of songs she did," Rodena says. "The Bye Bye Birdie, Moonlight and Roses, Somewhere's Got My Girl." George has 300 of them all written in a book.



School for George was Donnanville No. 6 Public, which she attended from Grades 1 to 11. After that, she took a business course and did office work before leaving Nova Scotia to study radio and television arts at the Ryerson Institute of Technology in Toronto. "When she came home in 1951, she wrote and performed in live comedies on CJOB-TV in Sydney. She also worked at the Beneficial Finance Company in Glace Bay, where her diligence earned her another award, Miss Go-Getter of 1957. Her friend and co-worker Pat Sharpe remembers George as "a lot of fun." In fact, Pat says, "The only bad thing anybody would have to say about her was she was always late." George would often come to Rodena's to change and spruce up between her jobs "and we would never know if she made it to the TV station on time until we turned on the set," Rodena says. George met her future husband, Ken MacDonald, at the Beneficial office. He was tall and dark, Pat says, raucous but quiet, a perfect foil for the lively Georgie.

Although the two started to date, George made a career switch to a job that only singing, and prizing, women could get at that time—she became a stewardess for Trans-Canada Airlines in 1958. She

had to quit before she and Ken got married on July 25, 1959, at St. Luke's United. She was nearly late for the wedding.

Ken and George moved to the Toronto suburbs in the early '60s so he could further his career, working on Bay Street as a banker. She gave birth to their two children, Sandra and Alan, before Ken decided he had had enough of the stress and moved the family back to Cape Breton in 1972. Ken died two years later, at 46, of a heart attack on a family vacation to Ontario. George was 40. She never remarried, but raised her kids in the suburban town of Port Huron, N.S., taking part-time jobs, doing voice-overs on radio, and performing as and down the west coast of the island. "Not every little girl got married or buried in her corner of Cape Breton with our Georgie being asked to sing at the ceremony," Sanders says.

Both kids recall their childhood as idyllic. George was meticulous: she baked the most delicious short-bread cookies; she was an absolute stickler about housecleaning, she pressed her songs until she had them note perfect. But, "We were always first, no matter what," Sanders says. George found a two-year-old golden retriever named Luke for Alan—"a loose of a dog," he says, and loved it with all her heart, even though she had to vacuum up its hair every day. She encouraged Alan, who is now a high school teacher in Inverness, Ont., to play the piano. When he was 12, Alan says, "There was never any discussion." As a dancer, a TV producer in Calgary, "She always told us to do what we wanted. She never made us feel that we had to reassure up. She was a kind, pure soul."

John Moore, the organist and choir director at St. Luke's, was thrilled when George came home to Donkin in 1990. "She came back to take care of her mother and she came back to the choir," he says. "She was nervous to do so, but we could talk her into it occasionally. Oh my God, she could sing!" The last time John heard her was 2005. That year, George was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a neurodegenerative disease that robbed her of her fine motor skills and her voice. Although she found it difficult to speak, she didn't complain about the disease. It still bothered her in her early hours. "I took her into the hospital for an appointment last March," Rodena says, "and she said, 'Look, we're a little later early.'" On July 25, George died at the Glace Bay Health Care Complex. She was 75.

BY HARRIET ROBERTSON



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